

# Minutes of the Annual Meetings of the Church of the Brethren

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Containing  
All Available Minutes from 1778  
to 1909

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# Preface

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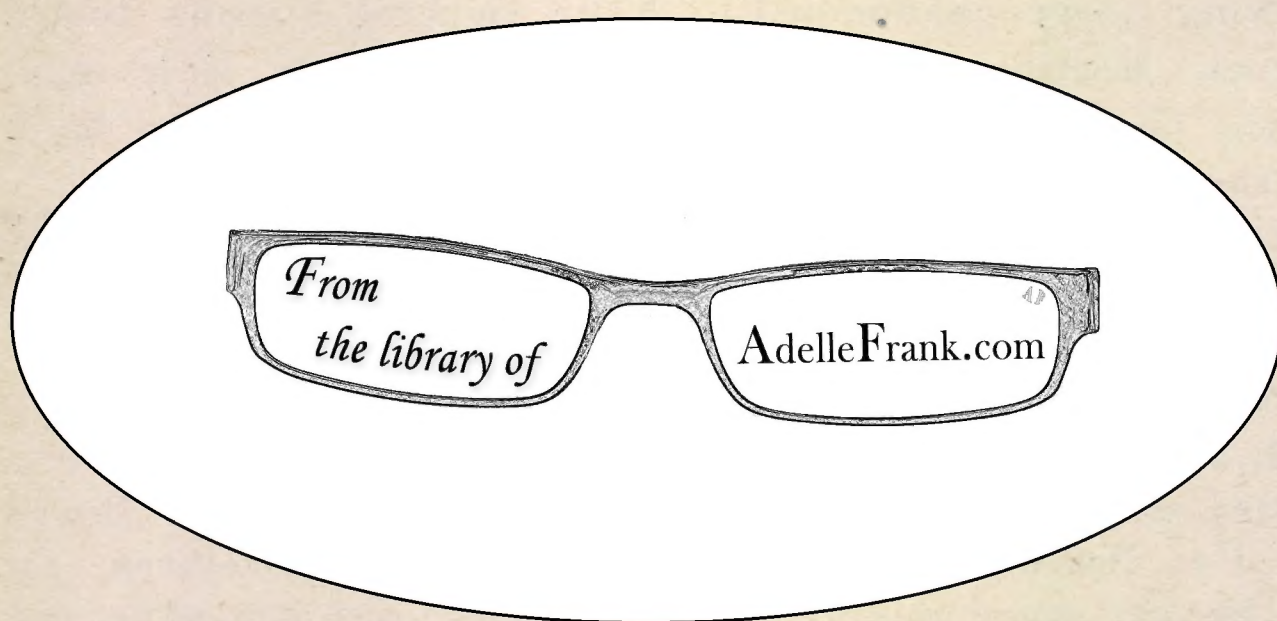
The Conference held at Harrisonburg, Virginia, 1909, passed the following query unanimously: "The General Mission Board asks Annual Meeting, through Standing Committee, if it may, through the Gish Publishing Fund, or otherwise, publish in book form all the Minutes of Annual Meeting for historical value."

In accordance with this query the Mission Board has had the Minutes of our Annual Meetings, so far as available collected and arranged for publication and this Book of the Minutes is the result. Only two additions have been made to the Minutes as previously published; an addendum of one article to the Minutes of 1815 and the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1826. For these the Board is indebted to Brother Brumbaugh's History of the Brethren. So far as is known every minute known to exist is included in the present publication.

It is well to preserve the Minutes of our Conferences, for they are of intense historical interest to those who are interested in the study of our Annual Meetings from the beginning. Even a casual reading of the deliverances of our Conferences must convince the reader of the carefulness with which our brethren, from the first, considered all questions pertaining to the growth, development and welfare of the church. There is to be found, also, in the Minutes, the spirit of love and forbearance, which kept the church united for many years, and it is to be hoped that the unity of the Brotherhood may ever be maintained. May the Great Head of the Church keep us united and may we at all times have the true test of discipleship: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another."

THE GENERAL MISSION BOARD.







# Minutes of the Annual Meetings of the Brethren

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## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1778.

Pipe Creek, Md.

After much reflection, in the fear of the Lord, it has been concluded in union, that the brethren who have taken the attest should recall it before a justice, and give up their certificate, and apologize in their churches, and truly repent for the error. If they cannot do this, and will justify themselves, the apostle exhorts us we should withdraw ourselves from every brother who walketh disorderly, and such a brother will be deprived of the kiss of fellowship, of the counsel, and of the breaking of bread, until he becomes obedient again. Ministers and elders who have taken the attest, and are sorry and grieved for it, confessedly recall the matter before the justice of the peace, and in the public church, counsel shall be held about them in their churches in presence of one or more ministers or overseers to consider, in the fear of the Lord, whether he or such as before mentioned could serve again in their office. But if such a minister or elder should approve himself stubbornly, and justify his course, yea, even teach the same, then we cannot comprehend how he can be obedient to the Spirit of Truth, which teaches we shall not touch the unclean thing, nor be unequally yoked together with unbelievers, because Christ has no concord with Belial. Therefore, we decide that such laborers are unfit in the Lord's vineyard, and also unfit to be members in the church of the living God, until their minds are changed, and they speak again with new tongues, or find their hearts with David. May God have mercy upon us!

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1779.

Conewago, Pa.

On account of taking the attest, it has been concluded in union as follows: Inasmuch as it is the Lord our God who establishes



kings and removes kings, and ordains rulers according to his own good pleasure, and we can not know whether God has rejected the king and chosen the state, while the king had the government; therefore we could not, with a good conscience, repudiate the king and give allegiance to the state. And it seems to us that those who have done so have committed a fault, on account of which fault we could not break bread with them, but bear with them in love. But, if they would come moved by their own conviction, and make acknowledgments, being truly repentant, then we might forgive them, and we believe God would also forgive them, and we might break bread with them. But in regard to the laborers (ministers), we think they should still stand in their labor, and not baptize or administer in the breaking of bread. Should they, however, come convinced in themselves to have erred, and show contrition, saying, "We are sorry," then we might forgive them, and be in full fellowship with them, yet, so that the church to which he belongs is satisfied with him when he should continue in his office. But if such go still further in this matter, as holding office (political) and so forth, show no sorrow, and rather continue in such course, then they should be also deprived of the church council and holy kiss, and nota bene, not only the ministers, but all who have taken this course.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1781.

Conestoga, Pa.

Article 1. Inasmuch, at the big meeting at Conestoga, last year, it has been unanimously concluded that we should not pay the substitute money; but inasmuch as it has been overlooked here and there, and some have not regarded it (sad conclusion), therefore we, the assembled brethren, exhort in union all brethren in all places to hold themselves guiltless, and take no part in war or blood-shedding, which might take place if we would pay for hiring men voluntarily; or more still, if we would become agents to collect such money. And inasmuch some brethren have received written orders to tell the people, and afterwards collect (such money), accompanied by a threat of a heavy fine—we exhort heartily, not to be scared to do that which is not right. Still, we exhort, also, heartily, that if a brother should be fined, there should be provision made for such brethren, and assistance rendered as far as concerns money. In case a brother or his son should be drafted, that he or his son should go to war, and he



could buy himself or his son from it, such would not be deemed so sinful, yet it should not be given voluntarily, without compulsion. But where this has been overlooked, and the substitute-money has been voluntary, and (the brother) should acknowledge his mistake from the heart, and repent it, the church might be satisfied with him. But when a brother bears his testimony that he cannot give his money on account of his conscience, and would say to the collector, "If thou must take it, then use your authority; I shall not be in your way,"—with such a brother we should be also satisfied. But concerning the tax, it is considered that on account of the troublesome times (1781, the fifth year of the Revolutionary War), and in order to avoid offense, we might follow the example of Christ (Matt. 17: 24-27), yet if one does not see it so, and thinks, perhaps, he, for his conscience' sake could not pay it, but bear with others who pay, in patience, we would willingly leave it over, inasmuch we deem the overruling of the conscience as wrong.

#### Article 2. Concerning distilleries.

We heartily counsel all the brethren who have distilleries, that they should by all means endeavor to put them away, in order to escape from the evil so often arising from them, and to avoid offense, and in this the brethren are still entirely united with the conclusion made at Pipe Creek, three years ago.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF 1782.

Place unknown.

#### Concerning the unchristian negro slave trade.

It has been unanimously considered that it cannot be permitted in any wise by the church, that a member should or could purchase negroes, or keep them as slaves. But concerning Brother John Van L., who had bought a considerable time since a negro wench and the same has given birth already, during that time, to four children by fornication, it is the united and cordial counsel of the brethren that the said Brother L. shall let the old negro wench go free from this time on, and shall tell her that she is free; but if she will not leave him after he has given her liberty, then he may enter with her into a contract for her wages. But this setting free or emancipation shall be done before some brethren, as witnesses of the transaction. Concerning the children, it is also unitedly considered that he is to give the children free at the age of twenty-one years, and is to have them schooled and provided with (food), raiment, and bedding during the time, as it is just and proper; and when they are twenty-one years old he is to give them a free (new) dress. Still it is our cordial de-



sire and counsel that if the old negro wench would not like to go away, he (who was her master) should use all diligence to prevent such unchaste life, and lay it before her earnestly, and if she would be free to give her her free papers, etc.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF 1783.

Pipe Creek, Md.

Article 1. At this great meeting a unanimous conclusion was laid down with regard to the very offensive evil which has endeavored to gain ground in the church, and by which already much mischief has been done, while the brotherly counsel has been repeatedly given that distilleries (of ardent spirits) in the church (among members) should be put away. And since there are still, from time to time, more erected,

It has been at this time unanimously concluded that those brethren who have distilleries should be earnestly admonished to put them out of the way; and when they have been admonished in sincere love once and again, and they would not obey the counsel of the church and not put away this loathsome idol, we could not break the bread of communion with them, and have to withdraw, also, the kiss and church council from them until they are willing again to hear the church, as they have promised also at first, at their baptism, before God and many witnesses.

#### Article 2. Concerning taking interest.

It is considered that no member should take interest for his money, inasmuch in the law of God it was expressly forbidden, and Christ says that the Scripture can not be broken (John 10: 35); and inasmuch the dear and chosen vessel and faithful apostle, Paul, says that Christ became the end of the law, and yet the word of God, and also divine knowledge teaches that in order to become partakers of Christ it is required to deny ourselves entirely of all those things which are contrary to the word and command of God; therefore, we exhort again heartily and unitedly, that such members who might be involved in this point should think of better things, and have more regard and respect for their denied Lord Jesus and his truth, and wish them faith and the grace of God heartily.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF 1785.

Big Conewago, Pa.

Article 1. Our cordial and united wish and greeting of love and peace to the beloved members, brethren and sisters on South Branch, especially to the loving brethren, Valentine Power and



Martin Power, and all the members in your vicinity. We wish you all much grace and peace from God the Father, through Jesus Christ his dear Son, to be faithful to him from the bottom of the heart, according to the guidance and direction of his holy and good Spirit, even unto a blessed and God-pleasing end. Amen.

Inasmuch as we have in part seen, and also heard, that there has arisen some difference in several doctrines among the brethren of your church and others, and having also seen the letter of the loving brother, Valentine Power, which he has written to the big meeting, and heard from it his views about "carrying on war," which are to be proved especially from the words of Peter (1 Peter 2: 13, 14), so we have considered and weighed the matter in union, and we trust in the fear of the Lord; but yet, for the sake of the word of God, we could not agree with such view, because we do not see it so; and do not understand so the loving Peter in that self-same chapter, nor in his other discourses; but God grant that we may be directed according to his good pleasure.

First, we do not understand at all, from the words of Peter alluded to, that we can give ourselves up to do violence, or that we should submit to the higher powers in such a manner as to make ourselves their instruments to shed men's blood, however it might be done. It is indeed difficult to believe that Peter, what he teaches in one place should have rejected in another place; therefore we can not understand him thus, but that his mind and admonition to "submit to every ordinance of man," etc., is something different. The question arises, How far or wherein are we to submit ourselves? and this question the loving Peter may answer himself. We find (Acts 5: 28) that the higher power to which Peter and John were subjects had commanded them straitly (in our German version, earnestly) that they should not teach in this name (the name of Jesus) any more, but they (the apostles) did not obey herein. And when they were asked again, "Did we not straitly command you," etc., then Peter and the apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey God rather than men." It will be well, when we attend always to the sense of Holy Writ strictly; and in the very same chapter of Peter alluded to, we see clearly that Peter exhorts for conscience toward God to endure grief and to suffer wrongfully, and says even that Christ became in this our example, that we should follow in his steps. Now, we see that Christ always, in all his sufferings, endured them, and that with great patience, and never resisted or defended himself; but, as Peter says, "he committed himself to him that judgeth righteously." We see further that our loving Savior, though innocent, was attacked in a murderous manner by just such men as Brother P. has mentioned in his letter; but the Savior stood fast in the covenant of faithfulness, as the brother stated. In a murderous manner he was attacked, and Peter was quick and ready to draw his sword according to the legal justice of God, and struck a servant, and smote off his ear. But what says the Savior: "Put up again thy sword into his place; for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." Here, indeed,



was the greatest necessity (for self-defense), but all this time the Savior resisted not; but he suffered patiently, and even healed the one whose ear was smote off, acting as it is written: "The righteous shall live by faith"; and again: "I believe, therefore I speak," etc. Thus our Savior had said before, "That ye resist not evil"; for so he believed, and thus he spake, and thus he did.

Further says the loving Savior: "He that believeth on me, as the Scripture has said," etc. Now we will consider a little what already at that time the Scripture was teaching about Christ and his kingdom; so we see that the holy man of God, Isaiah, says of the time of Christ: "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Isa. 2: 4. Again says Isaiah (9: 5, German version): "All war, with confused noise and garments rolled in blood, shall be burnt with fire," etc. So we believe where that fire which Christ came to kindle, where that fire burns, there will be burnt all war, as predicted; for the love to God constrains to the obedience of his commandments, as John teaches, and as Christ requires and says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments"; and his commandments aim throughout at nonresistance.

So we hope the dear brethren will not take it amiss when we, from all these passages of Scripture, and especially from the words of Peter, can not see or find any liberty to use any (carnal) sword, but only the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, by which we cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ, as Paul (2 Cor. 10: 5) says.

But that the higher powers bear the sword of justice, punishing the evil and protecting the good, in this we acknowledge them from the heart as the ministers of God. But the sword belongeth to the kingdom of the world, and Christ says to his disciples: "I have chosen you from the world," etc. Thus we understand the beloved Peter, that we are to submit ourselves in all things that are not contrary to the will or command of God, and no further.

And as to the swearing of oaths, we believe the word of Christ, that in all things which we are to testify, we shall testify what is yea, or what is true with yea, and what is nay, or not true with nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. And herewith we will conclude for this. This we intended to send you in writing with our dear brethren Daniel Leatherman, and Jacob Danner, and Henry Danner.

Written May 15, 1785, at the big meeting on the Big Conewago, from your brethren, united in love, Jacob Saur, Valentine Presel, Mich. Bosserman, Martin Reinhart, David Studebaker, Peter Dierdorf, Martin Urner, Jacob Stoll, Christian Longenecker, Henry Neff, Lorenz Beckner, Philip Lewig.

Article 2. Further it was discussed, and unanimously considered,

That no brother should permit his sons to go on the muster ground, much less that a brother go himself.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1788.

Conestoga, Pa.

Article 1. Resolved, unanimously, that hereafter no member of the church, whether brother or sister, under no pretext whatever, should go from church to church, or from house to house, to collect alms; but where there is any want or distress of a member (greater than the church to which he or she belongs is able to relieve), the church shall state the case in writing, and send it to the next church, if necessary by the member himself, and if in that church full relief could not be obtained, the writing should be renewed until relief is accomplished, if even it were necessary to call upon all the churches. And we deem it proper that every church should state on the writing how much is yet lacking.

Article 2. The next was almost equally important, inasmuch it has happened that members have moved from one section of the country to another, and improprieties had been committed by them in the place from whence they moved, which are such as reflect no honor on the doctrine of the Lord, nor either on (our) Christian profession, so that we had to withdraw from them the kiss of charity, and they concealed this at the place where they had moved to, and sometimes it was discovered afterward, so that offense of tender minds might result therefrom.

We conclude, likewise, and find it more proper and perfect, that such removing family or member should bring a certificate from the church where they leave, to the church to which they move.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1789.

Great Conestoga, Pa.

Article 1. At the council meeting of the brethren it was in union deemed good and necessary, and we feel it also to be our duty, to counsel as follows:

Inasmuch we deem it our duty, obligation, and office to see to it that union, tranquillity, and peace be maintained, that all should be united and of one mind, so that we may, according to the commandment of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, love one another sincerely, and be enabled to love as he has given us a commandment, by which it shall be known that we are his disciples; therefore, it is our desire that every grievance and every offense might be put out of the way; and inasmuch there is a grievance and offense on account of the distilleries of ardent spirits, because the old brethren could not allow them, and sad



experience has taught us that almost whole families are gone to destruction, and the children have fallen into drunkenness and a rowdy life, the brethren some years ago came to the conclusion that they should be done away. But this has not yet been done; but more have been bought and established since, and the evil is still growing. This makes a grievance and offense, that hardly one church can break bread with the other, and as has happened already, that brethren out of love had come a considerable distance, but when they saw that brethren who had distilleries went to communion, they had to remain away, and go home again in grief, because they had not been able to partake of the memorial of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, on account of this grievous and offensive thing. Thus grief, disunion, and division are brought upon the church. For this cause we beseech earnestly all brethren who have distilleries to be diligent to put them away; and hereby exhort in heartfelt and humble love, all our much beloved fellow laborers in God, to use herein diligence in admonishing each member to obey this counsel of love, so that peace, love, and union may be planted and restored. But whosoever is not willing to deny himself, as it should be indeed, and can not or will not, out of love, obey this our loving counsel, then we can not consider him otherwise but as such who has not yet died (to sin), and is not yet risen with Christ in newness of life, and that he seeks more the things temporal than eternal; more the things on earth than those in heaven; more the things that pass away than the things that remain, and that he is in great danger to lose the everlasting treasure.

Article 2. Inasmuch as many of our children and young people fall into a coarse life, and a great occasion of it seems to be a want that there is not sufficient diligence used in instructing the children according to the word of the Lord given by Moses in Deut. 6: 7, where we read: "And thou shalt teach them (these words which I command thee this day) diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up"; and also the apostle Paul says (Eph. 6: 4), that parents should "bring them (their children) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

It is opinion (and advice) that there should be used more diligence to instruct our dear youth and children in the word of truth to their salvation, and that it is the special duty of the dear parents, as well as of the pastors and teachers, to be engaged herein, inasmuch as the apostle teaches, "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof." (1 Pet. 5: 2.) And inasmuch as the children of the faithful belong to the flock of Christ, just as naturally as the lambs belong to the flock of sheep; and inasmuch as the word can be brought nearer to the hearts of children in a simple conversation or catechisation, or however it may be called, than otherwise in a long sermon, so that they



apprehend the word of divine truth, believe in Jesus Christ, and accept his doctrine and commandments, and walk therein to their eternal salvation—hence we admonish in heartfelt and humble love all our in God much beloved fellow members, dear fathers and mothers of families, as also pastors and teachers, our in God much loved fellow laborers, in the dear and worthy name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given himself unto death for us, that we should die to ourselves, and live to him forever, that they would use all possible diligence that our dear youth might be provoked to love God, and to appreciate his word from their childhood. Do not spare any labor and toil to convince them by our teaching and by our life, not after the manner which is almost too common nowadays, where the young are made to learn something by heart, and then to rehearse it in a light, thoughtless manner, and then are permitted to go on in a life as thoughtless as before—but that they may give themselves up to God in an earnest life. The great Rewarder of all good will undoubtedly remunerate you; for those that have done right shall live forever, and the Lord is their reward, and the Most High provides for them; and they will receive a glorious kingdom and a beautiful crown from the hand of the Lord. Sap. 17: 17.

Article 3. Further it has been discussed, and unanimously deemed good and evangelical, that all brethren, in all places, should shun all worldly offices, so as not to serve in any of them, provided it is possible to be relieved from them—such as supervisor, overseer of the poor, collector, constable, assessor, or also jurymen, etc. Yet it is considered, with some difference, such as supervisor or overseer of the poor might be served, perhaps, with least objection; provided there is no suing, or something else contrary to the word of the Lord. If a brother should be elected to one of these offices contrary to his will, then only that what he would have to do contrary to the Gospel should be rebuked in love and compassion, according to the word of the Lord.

Article 4. Concerning marriages of near relations, especially cousins,

Was unanimously considered, and deemed good that such marriages should not at all be, and that parents should warn their children earnestly in this respect, so that offense and scandal might be prevented, which has been so often occasioned by it, and that our dear youth may not in ignorance be led into something, where, perhaps, afterward their thoughts might be accusing one another about those things which can not be altered any more, and therefore should be well considered previously in the fear of God.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1790.

Coventry, Pa.

Article 1. Unanimously concluded, that we desire and pray that the beloved brother, Valentine P., would desist from his strange notion, because he has renounced with us before God, angels, and men, all things that are contrary to the wholesome doctrine, and we believe and confess that Christ has forbidden to his followers the swearing of oaths and partaking of war. Hence we must keep to his word and truth, and withdraw ourselves from every brother that returns again to swearing and war. It is impossible for us to break the bread of communion with such a brother, who pretends the higher powers were requiring such of him. For they can not compel us, if they would, because we are to obey God rather than men. But now, thanks to God, we have such a government that will not require of us what is against our conscience. But should there be any among us having such a conscience as to be able to fight and swear oaths, such a one would not be of us; neither would we break the bread of communion with a minister that would baptize backward, contrary to our faith.

Article 2. At a (large and) numerous meeting of brethren on the Schuylkill, at (the place of) Bro. John Bach, May 22, 1790, the following was unanimously concluded by the brethren, viz.: We wish and desire that the dear brother, V. P., would desist from his strange notion, because he has renounced with us before God, angels, and men every thing which is contrary to wholesome doctrine, and we believe and profess that Christ has prohibited to his followers the swearing of oaths and the partaking in war. Hence we must hold fast to his truth and word, and withdraw ourselves from every such brother who will justify swearing of oaths and warfare. It is impossible for us to break the bread of communion with such a brother, even if he would allege that the powers that be require us to do so. For our rulers could not do it, if they would, because we must obey God more than men. But now, thanks be to God, we have such a government that will not require of us such contrary to (the dictates of) our conscience. But if there should be some one among us that had such a conscience, that he could fight and swear oaths, such a one would not be of us.

Likewise, we could not break the bread of communion with a ministering brother who would, contrary to our views, baptize backward.



Signed in the great meeting, in the name and with the consent of all the assembled brethren.

George Preiss, Martin Meyer, Michael Frantz, Daniel Bollinger, John Landes, Christian Lawshe, Justus Fuchs, Martin Gaby, Peter Keyser, Sander Mack, Nathaniel Schreiber, David Kuntze, Martin Urner, Peter Leibert, Jacob Boeshor, Jacob Danner, Abraham Lawshe.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1793.

Great Conewago, Pa.

Article 1. Inasmuch as God has commanded his ancient people Israel, by Moses, and said, "There shall be no beggar among you (German translation), for the Lord shall greatly bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it," etc. Deut. 15: 4. And says further, "If there be among you a poor man of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thy heart, nor shut thy hand from thy poor brother; but thou shalt open thy hand wide unto him, and shall surely lend him sufficient for his need in that which he wanteth." And says again, "Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying," etc. "Thou shalt freely give him, and thy heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him; because that for this thing the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all thou puttest thy hand unto." And again says, "For the poor shall never cease out of the land; therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thy hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy in thy land," etc. Deut. 15: 7-11. And the apostle James says, "Hearken, my beloved brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom," etc. James 2: 5. And inasmuch it has happened by bad people, that such as were actually poor have been robbed of their gifts by men going about and pretending to be brethren, have asked assistance, which they have afterward spent in taverns by drinking and gambling; now, in order to prevent such deception, some years ago, at a large meeting in Conestoga,

It was resolved unanimously that no member should go from church to church, or from house to house, to collect alms, etc. And inasmuch as members have been imposed upon since in a deceitful manner, therefore we have concluded again in this present great meeting unanimously, that hereafter no member shall be allowed to go himself to another church; but if there should



be found a member in want or distress, the overseer in the church where such member lives is to hold counsel with the church, in order to see whether they would relieve the want, and if so, it should not go any further; but if not, then the overseer, with the counsel of the church, should send a letter to the adjoining church with a brother of his church, and if there the want can be relieved, it shall go no further; but if the want be not redressed then according to the finding of that church, it should be proceeded in the same manner from that to the next church, until relief is obtained; so that our loving brethren and members, who, according to the doctrine of Paul, are willing to do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith (Gal. 6: 10), may no longer be imposed upon in such a deceitful manner. This is not to be understood that we should not do good, also, to those poor without the church, etc.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1794.

Shenandoah, Va.

### Article 1. Concerning the ban,

We would very readily deny ourselves so much for our brethren's sake, so as to drop the Jewish word "ban." But the ordinance of the Lord Jesus and his holy apostles we can not give up, even for our brethren's sake, namely: "If any man that is called a brother is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner: with such a one no not to eat." 1 Cor. 5: 11. Here we see clearly that Paul does not mean only the eating in (the Lord's) Supper, but all eating (in his company). This is shown in the foregoing verse very plainly, when it says, "Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world," etc. Otherwise we might eat the bread of communion with the fornicators of this world, which certainly he can not have meant at all.

Article 2. We hear that there arises a strange doctrine, or rather opinion, among the brethren in Carolina, and that some brethren are grieved about this matter, because some believe, say, and teach the following, viz.:

1. That there is no other heaven but that in man.
2. That there is no other hell but that in man.
3. That God has no form or shape; and if a person would worship God, and would conceive in his mind God as in the human form; would imagine or believe that God had an appearance like a man, such person would do the same as one who would worship a horse or any other beast.
4. That God has no anger, and would punish no person on account of his sins.



5. That the dead rise not; for out of the grave nothing would come forth.

6. That they will have nothing to do with the ban (or ex-communication.)

For this cause some brethren desire to hear the views or minds of the brethren (in general council), and therefore we inform the loving brethren, that

The view or doctrine of the old brethren is, that we are to believe as the Scripture has said. For Christ says, "He that believeth on me, as the Scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." John 7: 38. Further he says, "The Scriptures can not be broken." John 10: 35. Again, we see that Christ in his whole life has looked upon the Scriptures, and has fulfilled them in all things. For when they came, and Peter struck with the sword, the Lord said, "Put up again thy sword into his place, for all they that take the sword shall perish by the sword. Think-est thou that I can not now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the Scripture be fulfilled, that thus it must be?" Matt. 26: 50-54.

Now, to come to the before-mentioned points or propositions, our dear brethren will not think hard of us because we believe as it is written, and believe also with David, that the word of the Lord is well refined, and a true doctrine, and that we also believe with Paul, that it is our duty to bring into captivity every thought (all reason, says the German) to the obedience of Christ, etc.

1. Now, to come to the word about heaven. Says Moses (Gen. 1: 1), "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth; and the earth was without form, and void." Then no man was created yet, and Moses calls something heaven, that is not in man. And (Acts 1: 9) if we read, "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Here we see that there is a heaven up on high.

2. "That there be no other hell but that in man." We read (Luke 15: 22, ff) about the rich man, that he died and that he also was buried. Now, it is without contradiction that when he died his soul and spirit had departed from the body, and had found, it seems, according to the word, the hell in which he suffered torments. So we think it would be well for us, if we would on this point or word "hell" apply the doctrine of Paul, not to dispute about words; for we can notice in Holy Writ that the word hell is used for different things. But we believe, as it is written, that there is a lake of fire or place of torment, in many places mentioned, which, according to the word, is outside of man, as we read plainly (Matt. 25: 41) where Christ says, "Depart from me,



ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Here we see clearly that the lake of fire is not in man, because men are sent into the lake of fire, and it says not that the fire should go into the men.

3. "That God has no shape or form; and if a person would worship God, and would conceive in his mind and believe God having a form like a man, such a person would do the same as if he worshiped a horse or any other beast." This, it seems to us, is speaking very derogatory of God, or against God, though we believe, also, from the heart that God is a Spirit, as Christ himself says, and that the true worshipers worship him in spirit and in truth. But not at all contrary to this says John, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." And further on, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory," etc. Here God has put on a visible form. Now, to be sure, in his worship man should not imagine a form or likeness of God; but if it should happen that a person or disciple would, in his worship in simplicity and sincerity toward God, look to God in the person or appearance of Christ, we consider it far less culpable than for a man to worship a horse or some other beast, and deem this a very unbecoming expression.

4. "That God has no anger, and punishes no person for his sins." Now, we believe also with John, "that God is love; and that he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him"; and that God is not angry like an unconverted man, but that penal judgments proceed from love to the human family. Yet notwithstanding the holy Scriptures or the men of God in Holy Writ call God's judgment God's wrath, as Psalm 90: 11, "Who knoweth the power of thine anger? Even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath." Again, John the Baptist says (John 3: 36), "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him." And that the Lord would punish no man for his sin, we deem to be an error. Christ says himself, "Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13: 2, 3.

5. "That the dead rise not, for out of the grave nothing would come forth." We believe as Christ says (John 5: 28), "The hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth," etc. So we read (Matt. 27: 51, 52), "The earth did quake, and the rocks rent, and the graves were opened, and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves," etc.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1797.

Blackwater, Va.

Article 1. It was considered good, and also concluded unanimously, that no brother or sister should have negroes as



slaves; and in case a brother or sister had such, he (or she) has to set them free. And in case a person is drawn by the grace of God, who has negroes, and desires to be received into the church, then it is to be laid before him (or her) before being received by baptism into the church, that it is the brotherly and united counsel that brethren and members having negroes for slaves, and thinking that they could not at once emancipate them, may hold them so long as the nearest church may deem that they had earned the money, and then, according to the counsel of the church, to let their slaves go out free, with a good suit of wearing apparel (frei kleid) as is given to a white serve. And if they (the slaves) have children, they shall stay with the brother as servants until they are twenty-five years old; he is to have them taught reading and writing, and bring them up in the fear of the Lord, and when they enter upon their (26) twenty-sixth year, to let them go out free with a good suit of clothing (frei kleid). Further it is considered, if a brother, contrary to this conclusion, would purchase negroes, and would not emancipate them, he would have to be considered as disobedient, and we could have no fellowship with him until he sets them free.

Article 2. It was in union concluded, that if a brother or sister should commit a fault or sin, that were not between brother and brother, but open before the world, then the church is to examine, and if the fault is not so criminal that the church is compelled to cut him off entirely, according to the word of the Lord, and the failing member acknowledges and repents for his sin, such should make a public acknowledgment in presence of believers and unbelievers. But if he should harden his heart, and would not be obedient to the counsel of the church, then the members could not have fellowship with him until such time he becomes willing to acknowledge and to obey, and then the whole church should heartily pardon and forgive him, in the name of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (See also "Acknowledgments.")

Art. 3. It was in union concluded, that the holy kiss and the kiss of charity should not be neglected, since in some places it is almost entirely omitted; but according to the words of the apostles, we should prove ourselves on all occasions as disciples of Jesus, and be steadfast in brotherly love; and notwithstanding all disgrace, we should not be ashamed of the word and following of Christ.

Art. 4. From James 5: 14, etc., the brethren testified unanimously, "That the sick who desire and call for it should be anointed, according to the word of the holy apostle, in the name of the Lord."



Art. 5. The case was presented of married people separating from one another, and then the one party marrying again, thus committing adultery. Afterwards the other party also marries again, and then the latter comes to the church and desires to be received by baptism as a member in the church,

Considered, that if the church was agreed, and the applicant should heartily repent, confess, and acknowledge the fault (and especially if the first companion would be dead by this time), we might include such person within the (bounds of the) mercy and merits of Jesus, and receive as a member by baptism.

Art. 6. At the yearly meeting on Blackwater, Va., in 1797,

"It was concluded in union that when a brother or sister should commit a fault which was not between brother and brother, but public before the world, the church is to investigate the case, and if the fault was not so criminal as to compel the church to cut him off entirely, according to the word of the Lord, and the failing member sees it and is sorry for his sin, then he should make a public acknowledgment in the presence of the believers and the unbelieving. But if he should harden his heart, and would not obey the counsel of the church, then members could not have communion with such until the time when he becomes willing to acknowledge and to obey."

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1798.

Little Conewago, Pa.

Article 1. It has been made known to us that last fall, at the great council meeting of the Brethren in Virginia, there was some discussion on account of the different views of the brethren, especially those in Carolina, where a brother minister, by name John H., has defended himself in the name of his whole church before many brethren in public, and brought to light many of his own sentiments, in so far that the brethren who still hold fast to the word of truth, according to their best knowledge, could not break the bread of communion with said John H.; would, however, in such serious circumstances, not lightly make a full conclusion without hearing first, also, the mind of their beloved old, and by many temptations, established brethren; hence this is to inform our dear brethren in North Carolina that the case has been presented to the brethren by those brethren who have seen John H. himself, and have heard from him many of his what can scarce-



ly be called doctrines, but rather perverse apprehensions of Holy Writ, and have quite unanimously

Concluded that we can not hold said John H., and all who are of his mind, as brethren as long as they do not acknowledge the doctrine of Jesus and his apostles as a true doctrine sent from God unto salvation, and publicly confess, according to which doctrine we are to prove all the spirits and powers operating in us, and necessarily must; for we believe and confess, with David, that the word of the Lord is a true doctrine, and well refined; therefore we can not acknowledge such as our brethren any more while they contradict the Holy Scriptures in many points. This we, the undersigned brethren, confess and testify to hold them as other people out of the church as long as they do not seek and keep house according to the Scripture.

Signed by the brethren.

P. S.—(Copy.) This is to certify that I heard John H. say in his preaching that it would be no more sin to him to get upon the top of the barn that he was in, and preaching in, and swear and blaspheme all the new-found oaths and curses, than to pray to God to forgive him his sins, or to bless him in any respect; and he said he had not served such a God that required the prayers of human creatures to forgive them their sins, or to bless them in any manner, these seven years, nor never would. These are the words I heard, as near as I can remember.

Per me, Samuel Van Etten,  
Johannes Keller.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1799.

Pipe Creek, Md.

Article 1. Whereas, there has existed for a long time a great difficulty between Bro. C. L. and Bro. J. Z., the overseers of ——— church; and whereas, there have been expressed very grave accusations and hard sayings by C. L. against some brethren, who shall be named hereafter, it has come to pass that Bro. C. L. has selected six brethren, and J. Z. has also selected six brethren, and they (both) have agreed to obey or submit to the advice or united counsel of those brethren, to which also the members (of the church) have consented. So we have assembled ourselves, we trust, in the fear of the Lord, and with a fervent prayer to God that he would bless our hearts with wisdom and understanding, in order to be enabled to counsel our dear brethren wisely, and to come to conclusions evangelical, or according to the doctrine of the gospel. And after having heard the complaints and accusations (of both sides), we have become entirely agreed, and believe all that Bro. L. has done grossly wrong against Bro.



Z., and also against brethren A. M. and M. U.'s transactions, and against J. L. and J. St., and whatsoever else might have been done (of the same nature).

Further, we believe also that wrong has been committed by J. Z. against L., but not so grossly as Bro. L. has done. Hence it is our unanimous conclusion, that when C. L. believes in his heart and cordially makes acknowledgment before this present brotherly and member-meeting, and also before —— (his own) meeting, and asks for pardon, and also makes heartfelt confession for the suspicious (and offensive) expressions against the old brethren, and against L. St., then we will, and it is hoped the members will, bear with him in patience, and he may continue to serve as overseer in W. church. And what concerns Z., we have agreed, that when he makes acknowledgment before the members that he has also done wrong, and asks pardon, he shall also serve as overseer with L., yet so that in important matters, such as baptism, breaking of bread, receiving and excluding (members), he should not go on without L.'s knowledge and consent; but with regard to holding meetings, attending funerals, and solemnizing marriages, he shall have equal liberty with Bro. L. Now, whoever of them will not submit to this above stated counsel and conclusion shall stand still in his office, until he is willing to accept it, and when it is accepted of both, there shall be hereafter no more heard of those things which are past.

Unanimously concluded by us, the subscribers: Martin Urner, Martin Gaby, Henry Danner, Peter Leibert, Jacob Danner, Philip Engler, Michael Pfoutz, Martin Garber, Daniel Utz, Philip Levy, Valentine Pressel, Stephen Ulrich.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1800.

Place Unknown.

Article 1. (On account of brethren in Carolina.) It has been made known to us that the brethren in Carolina desire to be informed more plainly concerning the conclusion made at the big meeting on Little Conewago, May 26, 1798, where it was concluded in union about Brother John H., and all who are of his mind, that we could have no fellowship with him (and them) as long as they persisted in their erroneous doctrine contrary to Holy Scripture. And since it is requested to inform them why and for what cause it was done, we should specify by name the causes



for which we can have no more fellowship with John H. and his sympathizers—this is to further inform them that

The chief causes were already mentioned in a letter from the big meeting held on Shenandoah, Virginia, October 20, 1794, as follows, viz.: that there arises a strange doctrine, or rather opinion, among the brethren in Carolina, and that other brethren are grieved by the same. (The six points are given in Minutes of 1794.) These six chief points have been specified in the above-mentioned letter of the big meeting, with the answer, as the old brethren have given their views and doctrine in refutation, which letter, as we presume, has been sent to the brethren in Carolina, and they are all desired to read the same at pleasure. Then again, at the big meeting which was held on Little Conewago, May 26, 1798, the same case was once more viewed by the old brethren, and also the Germantown brethren have sent their opinion by letter from Brother Sander Mack, wherein it is sorrowfully lamented that among the little flock of the Taufs-Gesinute in America there should arise men who deny the resurrection of the dead, and that among brothers and sisters some had to have the misfortune to have their eyes smeared by that old, moldy, and horribly stinking leaven of the Sadducees. And in addition a written testimony has come to hand about John H., that he should have said in his preaching, which two truthful men have heard him say it, and have testified to it. (See postscript, Minutes of 1798.)

Behold, much beloved brethren, in view of all the unscriptural doctrines and expressions, we have been moved (compelled) to exclude from the fellowship and membership of the Lord Jesus at that big meeting of May 26th, said John H., and all that are in union with him in such views, and we confirm again that conclusion unanimously in our great meeting of the brethren today, renouncing all fellowship with each and all such persons as hold such doctrines and views as are stated above, until they acknowledge their error and repent. Still, we look upon this case with sadness and heartfelt grief, and wish them (grace) of God in Christ Jesus, whose mercy endureth forever, that they may earnestly reflect and consider what may make for their peace and everlasting salvation while yet it is the accepted time and the day of salvation. This we desire from the bottom of our hearts, that the good God, through the tender mercy of Jesus Christ, would give and bestow to them and us for his merciful love's sake. Amen. So much from us, the undersigned brethren, assembled with one accord, and delivered into the hands of our loving brethren, who also, in words, will make it known to you in the name of the whole fraternity.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1803.

Place Unknown.

Our cordial and united greeting of love to all our beloved brethren and members of the W——— church. We wish much



grace, mercy, and blessing from God, the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to all our fellow-members united with us in love and faith, as also especially to our dear brethren, C. L. and J. Z. It is our heart's desire that the good God would make us all faithful laborers in his vineyard; for all that were hired by that householder were hired to labor in his vineyard, to which we wish you all much grace, blessing, and salvation from God. The cause of our present writing is this: Since we, or some of us, have been informed by our dear brother, Martin Gaby, who, on his journey to us, passed through W———, and also had meeting there, that Bro. C. L., since the big meeting, has only been a few times at meeting, and now for a considerable time has not come any more at all to meeting, so that some brethren feel oppressed in their minds on account of the word or expression which is found in that conclusion made at that big meeting, viz.: "That Bro. J. Z. should not go on with baptism, breaking of bread, receiving and excluding, without L.'s knowledge and consent"; hereupon we, the undersigned brethren, have conversed on the matter, and are of one mind on it, and now the same as it was at that time (three years before), and is in part also expressed in said conclusion, though briefly, that we all considered that Bro. L. had done wrong grossly, and if he would believe it from the heart, and confess and make acknowledgment, we, and hoping the members, would bear with him in patience, and then he should serve as overseer in W———, and thus should Bro. Z., in such important matters, not go on without his knowledge and consent. But if Bro. C. L. withdraws from the service, or from the duty of his office, contrary to the doctrine of the apostle, when he says, "If any one has an office, let him attend to the same," (German translation, Rom. 12: 7), if, now, Bro. L. withdraws himself from the service of the church as overseer, so as not to attend the meetings, then he deprives himself of this honor, that Bro. Z. can not counsel with him, if he (Bro. L.) does not attend meetings according to his duty. So it is our unanimous mind, that on this account Bro. Z. should not be bound or hindered to go on in his office, and faithfully discharge its duties, and prove himself a faithful laborer. But if Bro. L. acknowledges according to said conclusion, and endeavors to be faithful in his office, then we desire and hope the members will receive him, and not lay obstacles in his way. We mean, on account of things that are past.

(Signed by most of those who signed the foregoing.)



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1804.

Pipe Creek, Md.

Article 1. Whether it should or would be allowed to a brother or sister to keep public tavern by or with a license; it was unanimously

Considered that it could not be allowed, because we are convinced that it can not be done without disorder, and is rather a hindrance to a godly life and quietness of spirit. It has been deemed good in union, that if a brother or sister should undertake to keep tavern, they should be visited in friendship, and in love and seriousness, and in the name of the church be dissuaded and warned from it, and shown unto them what disorder and harm is likely to result thereof. Further it was concluded, that if a brother or sister would not hear, accept, or obey such counsel and admonition, then we would have to consider such as disobedient, and could not have fellowship with them. Yet the sisters, who are bound in such matter by the urging of their husbands, and would gladly be relieved from it, but can not without the consent of their husbands, they should be held less guilty.

Art. 2. Further it has been unanimously

Concluded, that no brother or sister should be engaged, by or with a permit, to sell strong drink, wine, or ardent spirits, by the quart or larger quantity, because it is feared that disorder and harm will arise thereby. Therefore all members who are engaged therein should be earnestly and faithfully exhorted in love and long-suffering to abstain from it, in order that such example may not lead our youth and offspring into licentiousness and scandal. But if one or the other should not heed this counsel of love and admonition, and not hear the church, we could not look upon such act otherwise than as being disobedient according to an impartial judgment.

Art. 3. It was concluded, in concord and union, that ministers should be uniform in solemnizing marriage according to the law of our country, by publishing the bans of every couple three times, and this in the section where they live or reside, as near as possible, so that if there were any sufficient cause or impediment of such intended marriage, it might be brought to light, and all things be conducted decently and in order.

Art. 4. About such brethren who so easily and heedlessly involve themselves in debts, and do not seek counsel, until they do not know any more how to counsel or help themselves; then they want at last counsel, when they desire and need help.

It has unanimously been deemed good, that every church where such brethren live should endeavor diligently to instruct



such brethren also in temporal or bodily things, that they should act considerately, and make no more debts than they can pay; and when at times their circumstances should be such that they could not see through, they should seek counsel of prudent brethren, and even the whole church is in duty bound to give counsel when requested; and if the counsel of the church should not be sufficient, it is also her duty to assist as far as possible in a case of necessity. At the same time such should be informed that if they would not receive good counsel they should not expect or hope that the church would feel bound or willing to assist much.

Art. 5. Whether upon request a brother might be ordained as a bishop, who shaves off his beard;

It was considered, that inasmuch as God made man with a beard, and again God commanded his people in the law not to cut off the beard; and it was especially required of the priests of God not to mar the corners of the beard; and also Christ, our Master and precursor, together with his disciples, has left us an example herein, in consideration of these and other Scriptures and examples, it (the ordination) could not readily be done in a sound faith, and with an unoffended conscience.

Art. 6. What is to be done with brethren who join the Freemasons? Though we are not sufficiently acquainted with this (secret) association to judge in the case, still there are revealed many trifling things, frivolities, and unfruitful works, so that it is considered highly improper for brethren to be members in their association, or to have fellowship with their works; therefore

It has been unanimously concluded that in case there are brethren defiled therewith, they should be admonished in heartfelt love, and informed that if they wanted to be (remain) in fellowship with these (masonic) brethren, we could not have fellowship with them; and if after such admonition they would not hear or receive counsel, we would have to avoid them, and could have no fellowship with them. But if one were contaminated with this, and would repent from the heart (and renounce all further fellowship with that association) in faith and hope, he might be received again in the name of Jesus Christ.

Art. 7. About persons who are among the English Baptists, and have been baptized by them, and come now and desire to be admitted (in our church); whether they ought to be baptized again, according to the true order of baptism, or if they should prefer it, whether we would receive them without being baptized again? In consideration of the Scripture, and especially because the Lord said to Moses, "Look that thou make them after their pattern, which was showed thee in the mount" (Ex. 25: 40),

It has been concluded, with one accord, that when such come to us we should give them in all things good instruction according



to the gospel—yea, according to the Scriptures; and when they believe, and are willing to obey from the heart that form of doctrine according to the counsel of God, they ought to be baptized in the proper order, because there have occurred different examples that heretofore persons had been received by the brethren who thought then they could be satisfied with their single backward immersion, but afterward they were more enlightened have deemed their baptism as imperfect, and to put their conscience at rest, they requested and had to be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, by a trine immersion.

Art. 8. Concerning buying lottery-tickets with a hope of gain,

It was unanimously concluded that such can not be approved in members, and parents should by all means prevent their children from it, because it can not be viewed any better than other gambling for gain.

Art. 9. Concerning the evil which grieves God and angels in heaven, and also the faithful souls on earth, namely, the new fashions which are in vogue in the world, and also here and there are believers who gratify too much the lust of the eye (Num. 15: 39), and conforming therein themselves to the world; and especially our youth is corrupting itself herein so much that the Lord has almost cause to complain that all flesh has corrupted its way; therefore

It has been unanimously deemed good that the bishops and ministers, as also all fathers and mothers of families, should use all diligence to counteract such things that they might spread no further, but rather be put out of the way; especially when persons desire to be received (in the church) it should be laid before them, that such things are contrary to the wholesome doctrine, and that it is their duty to deny themselves; and when they are willing to lay them aside, then they may be baptized in hope, that they will permit themselves to be further instructed, etc.

Art. 10. Our cordial and united greeting of love to our beloved brethren, especially to Brothers C. L. and J. Z., and also to Brothers Jacob H. and John G. We desire and wish you all that may tend to the glory of God, to the salvation of souls, and in the edification of the church. Inasmuch as it appears that Bro. C. L. assumes more authority in the service of the church than it pleases us and the church, and Brother J. Z. has given more out of his hands than is pleasing to us and the church, so that it causes pressure and offense; therefore

It is our loving counsel to you that you should keep house in the service of the church in union and control, so that Brother C. L. should make the commencement in meeting (preparatory)



to prayer, and then it is all the same who is speaking first; and when the meeting is to be brought to a close, then the beloved brother, John Z., is to make the conclusion. At the next meeting the loving brother, J. Z., is to make the beginning, and it is immaterial who may speak first; and when the meeting is to be closed, the loving brother, C. L., shall conclude; and so on. In important matters Brother Z. should do nothing without counseling Brother L.; and so likewise should Brother L. do nothing without counseling with Brother Z., so that union is preserved. But he who will not keep house thus and give satisfaction to the church, and will not accept the apostolic counsel of love of the beloved old brethren, such should be silent, and can not serve the church in his office. Further, if a person desires to be baptized, and makes known a preference by which brother he would like to be baptized, then that brother, with the counsel of the church, is to satisfy the candidate and forward him. With these lines we have given nothing new, but adhere to the conclusion which has been laid down already six years ago by the beloved brethren. We have further to notice, that there were very rude expressions made by brother L., saying that there is gone forth a spirit of Satan, and rules in the church, and of this J. Z. is the head, etc.; and even the church has been compared to the rebellious company of Korah. Such should be acknowledged and recalled by all means.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1805

Place unknown.

Article 1. Concerning those who are in avoidance. Since some think that we may or should not even give them the hand, while others would feel disposed at times to offer them the hand as a token that we would willingly assist them to be released and reconciled again,

The unanimous conclusion was, that we should be of one mind, and follow the same rule in housekeeping, and it was so laid down, that it might be best to offer them in that view the hand, but to have no dealings with them nor any familiar intercourse until a reformation takes place in them.

Art. 2. Further, it has been considered, that when there is made a conclusion at the big yearly meeting, and there are members who would not heed, nor conduct themselves accordingly,

It has been concluded unitedly, that when such persons can not convince the church by evidence from Holy Scripture, and would or did rise up against said church conclusion, would not hear or obey at all, in such case we could not well do otherwise, but after sufficiently and friendly admonition, to set them back from the breaking of bread until they learn to do better and become obedient.



Art. 3. Concerning praying (the Lord's Prayer) "Our Father," since some do not make the same expressions as given by the Evangelists from the mouth of Jesus,

It was considered, that we should use the expressions according to the pattern of the doctrine of Jesus, our Master, and at the same time contemplate the meaning contained in these words, so that we may pray with the spirit and understanding of the heart, according to the mind of Christ, and in truth.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1810.

Antietam, Pa.

Article 1. About brethren who intend selling bonds,

It was considered, that it should not be done without the counsel of the church.

Art. 2. Concerning brethren who use the law for collecting debts,

It was considered, that it is unbecoming for brethren to do so, that it can not be permitted, and if they should do such a disallowed thing, they are to be left over to the counsel of the church.

Art. 3. Concerning when brethren or members get at variance or in difficulty with one another.

No one is allowed to refuse to the other the kiss for himself, without counsel of the church, unless there had been committed an obvious crime.

Art. 4. Concerning when a member has been put back from the communion, and some from kindness or relationship continue to salute such with the holy kiss, before they are received again by the church,

It was considered as a fault, and should be by no means.

Art. 5. Concerning working on Sundays.

Inasmuch as there are some members who are so easily brought to work on Sundays, it has been considered thus, that it should not be by any means, except in cases of necessity, for it is a transgression of the law of God, and that of our rulers.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1812.

Place unknown.

Article 1. In case a brother or sister should desire in their sickness to be anointed,

It might be administered to them, provided they would not seek further help from an earthly physician; and if it should so be that the Lord would raise them again to health, and they should fall sick again, and think the Lord would call them away, and they ask again to be anointed, we would have no right from the word of God to refuse them, and it should be left to those brethren's wisdom who are called to do as the anointing will teach them. (1 John 2: 20.)

Art. 2. Concerning feet-washing, inasmuch as it has happened sometimes that members are permitted to have their feet washed by other denominations, who also practice feet-washing at their breaking of bread, yet not quite according to the word as we can understand it,

It is considered advisable that it should not be proper to take part in such imperfect exercises, etc.

Art. 3. Concerning a woman whose husband is dead; and having several children and no property, and her hands too weak to provide for them;

It was considered that the church should provide for her, and at the proper time to put out the children in good places, and to good people, and thus supply their wants.

Art. 4. Concerning a woman who was deserted by her husband; and being informed that he was dead, married again; when afterward her first husband made his appearance again, he showed no concern about her, and went away again; and now he is said again to be dead, and she makes application to be received into the church.

Considered, that this can not be done according to the word of God, before there is sure evidence that the first husband is dead, and then upon sincere repentance and acknowledgment she might be received.

Art. 5. Concerning the slave trade and slaveholding;

It was considered that it is a most grievous evil, and should be abolished as soon as possible.

Art. 6. Concerning brethren who are sometimes prevailed upon to serve in the office of constable,



It was considered that a follower of Jesus could not serve in such office; and if a brother should accept of it, take the oath of office, and serve in it, or by some person else as his substitute, such a brother would exclude himself from the breaking of bread, holy kiss, and brotherly council.

Art. 7. Another case was presented of a woman who was deserted by her husband, and after being informed that he was dead, she married again; but the information proved to be untrue; her first husband made his appearance again, but without calling or claiming her he went away the second time, and now he is said again to be dead, and she (the woman) now makes application to be received into the church.

The brethren decided that it could not be done according to the word of God, until there is evidence that her first husband be dead, and then only she might be received upon true repentance and confession.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1813.

Coventry, Pa.

Article 1. With regard to the slave trade and slave holding,

It was unanimously considered that it is wrong, and that it belongs to the iniquities of Babylon, making merchandise of souls of men (Rev. 18: 13), and that it is carried on by the spirit of this world, and is contrary to the good and holy Spirit of God, by whom all the faithful souls dedicated to God are ruled and led into all truth, and are to come out, according to the counsel of God, of Babylon, not touching the unclean thing, that they be not partakers of her sins, and receive not of her plagues. Hence it is unanimously and in union considered, that no member, neither brother nor sister, shall purchase or sell negroes, and keep none for slaves; members should also, with all diligence, restrain their children from it as far as it is possible while they are yet out of the church. Further it was concluded, if there were members having slaves, or persons who wish to be received into the church and have slaves, that they might hold them in a proper way so long as the church near which they live may deem it necessary for the slaves to earn the money they had cost, and then, with the counsel of the church, they are to be set free, with a good suit of clothing; and if there are any who have not bought, but inherited their negroes, they are to be liberated as soon as the church considers it right and proper. And if members have negro children under their care, or even as slaves, they shall bring them up in an orderly manner, teach them also to read, and keep them, if males, to the age of twenty-one years, and if females, to the age of eighteen years, and then, with the counsel of the church, emancipate them, with a good suit of wearing apparel. Further it has been unanimously concluded, that if members having negro



slaves, will not set them free, and thus oppose themselves to the order of God and the loving counsel of the old brethren, who are indeed servants and stewards of God, and even the united counsel of the whole yearly meeting, then after sufficient admonition they would have to be held bound (according to the word). We would have to deny such members the breaking of the bread of communion, the holy kiss, and the brotherly counsel, yet according to the word of the apostle Paul, to admonish them as brethren or sisters.

Art. 2. Further, it has been considered in union concerning electioneering, viz., giving votes for officers or men for the assembly or Congress, in order to elect them to their several offices.

Inasmuch as the appearance of the times into which we have come are grievous (it was the time of the war with England), and inasmuch as party spirit has risen so high in the kingdoms of this world that men, and even the heads of government are among themselves at variance, therefore it has been viewed in union, that it would be much better if no votes were given in at elections for such officers (by the brethren); for so long as there is such division of parties, we make ourselves suspicious and unpropitious on the one side, on whatever side we may vote. Thereby every one that desires to be defenseless (or non-resistant) may readily see what might be best (for him to do.) Moreover, is (not only) our land and (but also) almost all empires engaged in war (in Europe especially); hence it was considered to be best to give in no vote, else we might, perhaps, assist in electing such that would afterward oppress us with war. To pray diligently for our government we believe to be our duty, and to call upon the Lord we think will be most acceptable.

Art. 3. "It has been also requested of, and counseled by the old brethren, that the great (annual) meeting should be continued in the order as it has been heretofore declared and laid down by the old brethren, viz.: that the ministers and overseers of the churches, every one in his own district and church, should in good time lay it before the church, how some should be willing to go to the big (annual) meeting, and that the church should assist them, if possible, that some may be able to go, so that from all parts, and if it could be from all churches, some may come to that meeting; and those that will come should endeavor to arrive on Thursday evening so near to the place of meeting as to be able to be at the place Friday morning at nine o'clock, that the business may go on without hindrance."



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1814.

Pipe Creek, Md.

Article 1. It has been publicly treated at the big meeting on Pipe Creek, about the lamentable disturbance and dissension which have arisen some time ago between Bro. C. H. and some members of this church with him, of one part, and the old ministers and bishop, and especially P. E. and other members, of the other part. This disturbance and dissension have existed already several years, and after said old brethren and ministers and overseers in said church had made many efforts with the church to settle the difficulty with the assistance of God, the troublesome affair has got worse still, so that said old brethren and overseers of said church had no other prospect but to counsel with other strange brethren, and have charged the beloved old brother, Henry Danner, to see to it, that the matter might be settled and put to rest.

Now the loving brother was concerned about it, according to his duty, and has, with other strange brethren, paid a visit at Pipe Creek, and had Bro. C. H. and his adherents invited to come to the council meeting. But Bro. C. H. objected; he could not come on account of his sore hand, and they came not. To the loving brother, Henry Danner, to whom as aforesaid was intrusted this important affair, it was a heavy burden; so he appointed another time, and requested old brethren from afar, and paid with them another visit at Pipe Creek, especially to Bro. C. H. and some of his adherents, and invited them again to come to the (council) meeting. Bro. C. H. again would not consent to come, and they did not come again, with the objection that it was not yet the time to settle the matter, and secondly, that they had not sufficient information about the council meeting, and so they had not prepared their testimony. Then the dear brethren that had come from afar, counseled with the loving brother, Danner, that this case should not remain thus, while there were members suffering under it, and some even had to depart this life under this pressure and sorrow; under these considerations, and with the advice of some brethren (of the church probably) they appointed again another meeting some months hence, and at once wrote and signed a letter of information to Bro. C. H., and appointed some brethren to bring the letter to Bro. C. H., and to read the same to him.

When the appointed time of the meeting came near that



strange brethren should have come, at least twelve, then Bro. C. H., before the time, went and made reconciliation and settlement with Bro. P. E., externally with hand and kiss before the church, so that many rejoiced over it, and the meeting and appointment for the strange brethren was recalled. But that settlement and peace, alas! did not last long, and Bro. C. H., with his adherents, began again to complain against the church, and brought, not only new complaints against the church, but raised also again the dispute about the land here and there, and without counsel and investigation in the church of the new complaints, and without counsel of other old brethren and bishops, and entirely contrary to the word of God and to the order of our Chief Shepherd and Bishop of his church, and head of his members caused a division and tore himself with other members from the church and the members, whom he had brought into confusion and mistrust against the old brethren and church, with the hard and suspicious complaints which he and others, against the order of God, have scattered far and wide; while, with all the invitations when strange brethren came, they never came to this day, in order to prove them with sufficient testimony, as it is required by the Holy Scriptures, or God in his word.

He has now, with those members he led astray, formed a separate congregation, and broke bread with them; not at the proper time, inasmuch as we are not to keep the feast with the old leaven, neither with leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Bro. C. H., with the others, have known that he was not in peace with the church, and especially with the housekeepers, nor they with him; and the Lord Jesus teaches us in these precious words, "If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Matt. 5: 23, 24. Those whose eyes are anointed can clearly see that the whole thing is perverse. For the Spirit of God leads into all truth and union, and "as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons (children) of God," and "by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one to another."

And not only this, but at said Supper he has introduced strange exercises, which our dear old brethren have not had, who indeed, as we believe, walked in the light, and in the pure knowledge of the truth kept house, and entered, as we hope, into blessed rest. And as some have heard, there has been drawn a shallow reason



from Christ's words, to that practice, whereby that practice can not be established, and it is to be feared that said new practice is more calculated to cause disturbance, trouble, and division within, and rejoicing without among other denominations, as if the old Baptists and Brethren would have now to learn from them, that they had opened our eyes, and thus seeking persons who are yet in the twilight, may be confused, thinking the old brotherhood must not have had the full light, else they would not begin new practices, and thus this would serve more to scatter than to gather, and more to the dishonor than to the honor of God.

Now, since this matter has thus worked from time to time, as has been briefly related, we, the undersigned, upon the request of said church, and more for the sake of God, have found it our duty to take the case in consideration at this occasion, namely, in said big meeting; and several brethren have visited Brother C. H. and his wife, and others of his members, before the meeting, and have invited him to come with his company and bring his testimonies to prove his heavy complaints or accusations, in order that those members who might have committed a fault could be convinced, that there was hope, if they would, that all could be brought to rest and reconciliation. But he would not come to lay the case before the big meeting, and said there were too many judges at the big meeting—it would be better to have too few judges than too many. However, on the second day he came to the place of the meeting, and said if the matter was to be settled the land would have to be altogether measured, and they would bear the expenses.

But the council of the big meeting considered that with further deferring the case could not be improved, and slowly or never be brought to an end, and the measuring would scarcely contribute to that end. Yet they shall have perfect liberty to have the land surveyed, as it has been spoken about. And upon the whole of said case it has been mutually concluded by the whole council of the big meeting, inasmuch as Brother C. H. was never willing to come and bring sufficient testimony to prove said accusations, we will hear and accept the testimony of Brother P. E., and of all those who were accused, on their good conscience, in hope and trust as being true, until sufficient testimony should come, as the Scriptures require; and if sufficient testimony should come against one or the other, then shall he who is concerned submit to the council of the church, which Bro. P. and the accused have agreed to and promised before the big meeting.



Upon this condition we declare the beloved brother, P. E., and the other accused, as absolved, and intend at this and other occasions to break the bread of communion in confidence and love with them, and to hold with them in full fellowship, as the gospel of Jesus requires, and we wish them light, grace, and power from God to hasten forward on the way of peace to the land of blessed rest. Amen.

Further, it was mutually concluded that the case, as above stated, is wrong, and contrary to God's order, according to the example and testimonies of the Old and New Testaments of the Lord. From these weighty causes, the big meeting concludes that impartial brethren should be selected, and they should give themselves up for God's sake, to pay the church a general visit from house to house, and before the meeting takes place to visit, also, Brother C. H., and all those who have cut off themselves with him, in a friendly manner, and to urge them to take steps toward peace, concord, and reconciliation with the church and with God, in as far as mistakes have been made, and all those who should thus come should be cordially forgiven by the whole church.

But if one or the other would not accept or receive counsel according to the doctrine of Christ and his apostles, and not abstain from their error, with such we could not break bread, and would have to deny them the kiss and church council after a long-suffering and sufficient admonition; and if Brother C. H., with all his adherents, should oppose themselves, we would have to hold them, as the Lord Jesus says, "If he shall neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican." The whole big meeting—yea, all members, should be engaged and prayerful, that God would meet us with his blessing and salvation. Amen. Signed, Samuel Garber, Benjamin Bowman, George Preiss, Daniel Stober, Nicholas Martin, Jacob Beshor, Samuel Arnold, Martin Garber, David Pfoutz, John Eby, Christian Long, John Schleifer, Daniel Long, Daniel Garber, Michael Etter, Henry Gibbel, Herman Blaser, George Petry, Daniel Arnold, David Albaugh, John Diel, Jacob Shenefelt, John Price, Isaac Long.

In the year 1814, November 17, the strange brethren have come again to us on Pipe Creek about the difficulties with C. H. and his adherents and have visited and admonished them again to peace, and union, and acknowledgment; and with these lines we inform our dear members of Pipe Creek church, briefly, how we found it on our visit to C. H. and the members that have turned away from the church. What concerns Brother C. H., the visiting brethren have proposed he or they should elect six brethren



on their part, whom they would, and they should search out their true testimonies; and the old brethren on Pipe Creek should also elect six brethren, and prepare their testimonies, and then the difficulties should be settled, with the help of God, according to the testimonies.

Brother H. said he would have nothing to do with it, and that he would have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. This was the amount upon the whole, upon which we told him the conclusion made at the big meeting. Likewise we have told Brother J. W., upon his insolent and untrue assertions, said conclusion. The said conclusion is, that if after patient admonition they would not return to union according to the truth of Jesus, we must deny to them, according to the gospel, the communion, in so far as not to break bread with them, and to refuse the kiss and council, until they should become repentant. We must observe here, that we have not seen any more of Bro. Benjamin Bowman and Nicholas Martin, after they had visited their part, and know not whether they have told the conclusion to any members. As concerning the other members who are with C. H., it was found different; yet several have declared that they would not fall away or separate from the old brethren, still they are halting at several points. We have told some, by hearsay and suppositions, they had got off from the church thus far. Now, they should only believe what can be testified; in this way they might be restored and put right again. In this manner all the members should labor in this case with prayer and supplication to God, that by his coöperating grace all, and especially those who long after peace, could come again to peace and union with the church, according to the mind of the Spirit of God and his soul-saving truth, in hope that they will reflect and choose that what is counseled them according to the gospel, viz.: to strive after peace with the church. Thus we have told the other members we visited the conclusion only in this form, that those who would continue to adhere to C. H., and go on with him in his strange works, all such would be held as is expressed in the conclusion until they would return repentant; that is, all such who would continue to break bread with him and justify his strange baptism. Signed, etc.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1815.

White Oak, Pa.

In the big meeting of the Brethren's church, which was held in White Oak church with Bro. Joseph Hershe, May 13, 1815, the following was discussed, and held counsel on the complaints arising in different parts of the Church of the Brethren concerning the strange views of some members, which are deemed by us as erroneous and not founded on the Holy Scriptures, which Holy Scriptures indeed shall be the sole foundation of our faith. And since we live now in perilous times, in which arise many and manifold temptations, and also many errors, so that weak minds may be easily led astray and in confusion, not knowing what or how to do in order to salvation. And inasmuch now, at this time, among the many religious parties and denominations there are such whose doctrines on repentance, on baptism, and on the forgiveness of sins through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, and on the sanctification through the Holy Spirit, seem to differ not much from those of the old brethren, only that they, according to our views, as the Word teaches us, do not put every thing in the right place.

They require of a man, before he is to be baptized, that he should have passed entirely through repentance, and should have a lively experience of the forgiveness of sins, and that he should have obtained the new birth completely before baptism, so that they must confess such and be enabled to say how they came to it; and that only then they were fit to be received by baptism into the covenant of the grace of God. There should have been made even such expressions in public meeting, that a man must have obtained complete sanctification first, else he would be baptized too soon, as has been credibly testified. Now for such a confession or doctrine we see no foundation in Holy Writ, nor a single example in the whole New Testament. Candidates for baptism were directed to repent, or to a change of mind; they were exhorted by John to bring forth fruit meet for repentance—that is, to lead such a life as would be consistent with a change of mind; and of Christ and his apostles we do not find that any more was required of candidates than besides repentance, faith in the gospel—item, faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Hence we find no authority to ask more of candidates but what is founded in the word of God. We believe that baptism is the entrance into the new covenant, according to the Scriptures. We also be-



lieve that the foundation which was laid by Christ and the apostles is the only foundation on which we have to build, and that we have no right to change or amend any thing. We believe also that the (individual) cases of repentance are very different; that some have much greater difficulties to overcome than others; therefore we make (establish) no rule herein, because the Scripture does not give any.

And since we cannot agree on the above-named points, with such who hold these points as articles of their faith, inasmuch as the word of God does not teach us thus, it happens sometimes that harsh expressions are made about the old brethren; for instance, "that they were a crowd of dead men, who had not yet come to a new life"; "unconverted, who knew nothing yet of conversion"; "a dead heap of flesh"; "as laying all in a heap in death"; that not one (of them) had come to a newness of life, or he could not remain among them; and on account of their baptizing too soon, the life of God commenced in them was presently again extinguished, so that they could not come to the (new)birth, etc.

Such expressions do not proceed from love, nor will they build love. We would let these good people willingly (to enjoy their sentiments) in peace, if they would also permit us to enjoy (ours) in peace. It does not work unto union according to the command of Christ. It causes schisms and divisions. It seems as if it was the object and purpose also in our churches, to fill weak members with their notions, and to cause confusion, so that many members become doubtful of their old brethren, since they are represented to them so cold and dead. And such we counsel and admonish, out of heartfelt love, that they should hold fast to the word of God, and not be carried about with every wind of doctrine. And it is our advice to all overseers and householders to admonish all the members to this, that they should take fast hold of the written word of the gospel; and if it should happen that some of our members should unite with such, break the bread of communion with them, receive them in their houses to hold meetings, so long as those stand in such separation against us, they (our members) should be admonished, and if they would give heed to it, we ought to have patience with them; but if they would not hear or be advised, they could not stand in full fellowship with us. For the Lord Jesus and the apostles teach us that we should be one, of one mind, speak the same thing, and that there should be no division among us; and to this end we also labor to be obedient to the gospel of Jesus by the grace of God.



Art. 2. It has been discussed by us concerning the war matter, and it is agreed by all the brethren that a brother's sons who consider themselves according to the teaching of the brethren, "defenseless," and prove themselves to be such and wish to obey the teachings of the brethren, when these shall be hard pressed with the payment of fines they shall be assisted by the brethren according to the teaching of the apostle: Let one bear the burden of another thus you will fulfill the law of Jesus Christ.\*

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1817.

Place unknown.

### Article 1. Concerning the use of tobacco,

It was in union considered, that if a member should be contaminated with it, such should be admonished to quit it; and if it would not be told, such a member could not be elected to any office in the church.

Art. 2. Concerning conformity to the world in wearing fashionable clothing and everything that is high, without exception,

It was considered, that when a member should herein be found guilty, he should be admonished; and if the admonition would not be heeded, we could not hold such in full fellowship, inasmuch the Savior says, "That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Luke 16: 15.

Art. 3. Whether the nearest friends of a member that falls under the censure of the church, or a candidate wishing to be received into the church; may be present at the council of the case?

Considered necessary that the nearest friends should withdraw.

Art. 4. Whether testimony against a member may be received from outsiders (persons not members), in case of a crime being laid to the charge of a member?

Considered, that we could not pass judgment on a member upon testimony from outsiders; but in case one single member could testify with truthful outsiders, then we could and might judge according to the word of God, for "in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established."

Art. 5. Whether brethren or their children may go on the muster-ground or not?

The counsel was, that no member may go there, and prevent

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\* Brumbaugh's History of the Brethren, page 292.



also their children from going on that ground, and not willingly permit it to them as long as they are under parental authority; should a brother do so, he could not be in full fellowship with the church; for the Savior said to Peter, "Put up thy sword into his place; for all they that take the sword, shall perish with the sword."

Art. 6. Whether we may sell a note (or bond) or not?

Considered, that no member should sell a note without the consent of the debtor.

Art. 7. Concerning work on Sunday,

It was concluded that members should do no work on Sunday, except in cases of great necessity, inasmuch as the apostle writes to "give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God." 1 Cor. 10: 32.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1818.

Place unknown.

Article 1. Concerning trouble arising in some churches on account of the marriage of young people, and their solemnization.

Inasmuch some desire to hold fast to the counsel or conclusions of the old brethren, which was, that previous to marriage the bans were published three times, which they think is a good order, and not at all inconsistent with the gospel; but now some assert that this publishing at the close of the meeting was against their conscience, and think that the effect of the word preached before was thereby interrupted; while, on the other hand, brethren think that there is danger in solemnizing marriage without publishing before, inasmuch we can not know how matters stand with young folk, and there might be danger, even if they are neighbor's or brother's children; and we think, if we were so closely restricted by our conscience not to publish the bans, then we would also marry none. Yet we desire to control no man's conscience, provided he acts for peace, and as they say, for conscience' sake. We desire all housekeepers in churches might be united in one mind to hold fast to the counsel of the old brethren; for unto peace God has called us.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1819.

Great Conewago, Pa.

Article 1. Concerning a woman who married a man who had deserted his wife because she had committed carnal intercourse with another man, as he says, proved by the time of her delivery.



Considered, if there can be found no evidence as his (the husband's) assertion, it is not sufficient to decide that it was or is no true wedlock, consequently the woman he has now, with himself, will be considered as adulterers as long as the first wife lives, according to the declaration of the Apostle Paul, Rom. 7: 2, 3. This is left over to further investigation. So we find no liberty to receive persons who live in adultery into the church, as long as the first marriage is not dissolved by death, and then only upon sincere sorrow and repentance they may be received into the communion of the faithful. But if those who are in such case would resolve firmly for God's sake to live separate, and would also indeed do so, and lament sincerely their former state—then there might be mercy in store for them, and they might be thereby reconciled to God.

Art. 2. Whether we could break the bread (of communion) without having a supper?

We hold, that we ought by all means in all the exercises (ordinances) look to the testimony of Jesus and his example; for the Lord Jesus, shortly before his suffering, when he instituted the Lord's Supper, etc., after he had washed his disciples' feet, he did eat supper with them, where he also dipped the sop, and gave it to Judas. (See John 13: 26.) And Mark 14: 18: "And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, one of you which eateth with me shall betray me." And verse 22: "And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat; this is my body," etc.

Art. 3. How it is considered, that brethren receive other preachers (from other denominations) into their houses, in order to solemnize the marriage of their children after the manner of the world.

Considered, that matrimony is a solemn matter, whether we commence it with or without a blessing, and hence we think we should have so much love for our children as to be concerned that they might enter upon that state with a blessing; and we believe no man can communicate such but he that is animated by the Holy Spirit, by whom he will also be led into all truths. Hence we should have our children married by a brother who is authorized to do it, with a blessing and brief exhortation; also without too great superfluity of meat and drink, so that we can believe to be pleasing to God—for all extravagance is sin.

Art. 4. Whether a member is permitted to marry without the counsel of the church, and without publishing the bans?

Answer: We know that all who have entered into the covenant of grace have promised also to receive counsel, and it seems to us, in such an important matter as marriage is, we should by all means seek counsel of our fellow believers. And concerning the publishing of the bans, it is our loving counsel, and daily experience teaches us, that it is very good to hold to a good order,



inasmuch by the publishing the bans many an accusation is cut off, while on the other hand much deception is prevented, which would have free course without the bans.

Art. 5. Whether it is not displeasing in the sight of God that there is so much conformity to the world at funerals, with the superfluity of drink as well as the superabundance of eatables, besides what is needful and proper?

Considered, that all superfluity in meat and drink, together with all extravagance in clothing, is an abomination in the sight of God, which we ought to avoid by all means, that the body of Christ may not be mixed up so much with the body of the world (especially at such solemn occasions as funerals).

Art. 6. In a similar case of a woman marrying a man who had left his wife, both were considered adulterers while that first wife lives, according to the declaration of the Apostle Paul (Rom. 7: 2, 3); and that the church could not receive them as members until the first marriage was dissolved by death, and then only upon heartfelt sorrow and repentance. But if those who are in such condition would for the sake of God (and their salvation) firmly resolve and actually (endeavor to) live separate (and apart from each other), with godly sorrow for their former transgression, they might find grace and be reconciled with God (through Christ).

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1820.

Conestoga, Pa.

Article 1. In the counsel of the assembled brethren at the big meeting in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in Conestoga church, at Bro. Joseph Royer's, May 19, 1820, was proposed for consideration in church council the disturbances or troubles arising in the State of Ohio in Mill Creek Church, by diverse doctrinal points which have been there introduced, viz.: it has been taught by Bro. A. M., who is a co-laborer in the word, that a man must have a real experience of the forgiveness of sins, and that he must be entirely born anew before he is baptized, which has been credibly testified.

And it was considered at this meeting that there is no gospel evidence for such doctrine, and it was concluded with one accord and unanimity that if a brother will preach and persist in such doctrine, he could not be permitted to teach; for it is not consistent with the teaching of the apostle, when he says (Acts 2: 38), "Repent, and be baptized every one of you, in the name



of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." This is thus laid down until such brother will prove his or such doctrine on the ground of the word of God. It was also considered that Bro. J. K. went too far with the harsh expressions he made against Bro. A. M. in presence of the brethren, and it is required of him to make acknowledgment for such hard expressions, or else we could not be well with him.

N. B.—The expressions were these, that he is to have said, from the teachings of Bro. M., there was apparent a spirit of Methodism and of the River brethren, and an Antichrist, etc.

Art. 2. A brother had used hard expressions against a brother in the presence of the brethren, such as "from the preaching of Brother M. there was apparent a spirit of the Methodist and River brethren and an Antichrist!"

Considered, that the brother is to make proper acknowledgment for these harsh expressions, otherwise we would not be satisfied with him.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1821.

Glade, Somerset Co., Pa.

Article 1. Whether an ordained brother may collect debts by the power of the law?

Considered, that no brother, much less one that is ordained, has a right to do so according to gospel doctrine, neither for himself nor for another.

Art. 2. Whether an ordained or private brother may serve as an executor, where he knows beforehand that the law must be enforced,

As has likewise been considered, that it should not be according to the gospel doctrine. But inasmuch as many brethren are in such a position the council is to have patience with them, until they can get through with it, yet so as not to break the bread of communion with them. Since, however, an executorship is very difficult for brethren, it was deemed necessary to adopt measures to obviate or lessen the difficulties. And inasmuch as every parent (or other person of sound mind) has a right to make a will according to his own pleasure, without being interfered with by the authorities, to divide and distribute his property, and also to select his executors, and to order them what they are to do, and how to do it (the testator may insert in his will the following clause), viz.: "I nominate and appoint A. B. to be the sole executor of my estate, to settle, pay off, and collect, etc., as far as the rules of our church and the gospel will admit of" etc.



Art. 3. How far brethren have liberty to commune with men who do not strictly adhere to the truth, was considered in council, thus:

That it is very dangerous to commune with such people as do not hold entirely the doctrine of Christ, since the apostle says, "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not in your house, neither bid him God-speed" (2 John, 10); and the counsel is, to give them no liberty to speak in our meetings.

Art. 4. How far a brother is at liberty in giving testimony, to speak the truth before the higher powers, inasmuch as different forms are presented to brethren?

Considered, that a brother by no means should take the liberty to lift up his hand, but should obey simply the counsel of the gospel, saying yea, if it is yea, and nay, if it is nay; "for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."

Art. 5. Whether brethren may have distilleries or not?

It was considered to leave it by what was concluded some thirty years ago, that no brother would be allowed to have a distillery, or to distill ardent spirits.

Art. 6. Whether members (persons) might be received into the church, who have been but once immersed (without baptizing them in the manner we believe it ought to be done according to the gospel)?

It was considered, that a threefold immersion is the true baptism; but if such persons would be content with their baptism, and yet acknowledge the Brethren's order as right, we would leave it over to them, and receive them with the laying on of hands and prayer.

Art. 7. What is to be done when a member commits a fault which is not between brother and brother, but publicly, against the gospel?

Considered, that such a member (provided it is no crime, such as stated in 1 Cor. 5) should always make acknowledgment before the church.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1822.

Canton, Ohio.

Article 1. Whether a brother might be set forward to baptize and break bread who does not wear his beard.

It was considered, that according to the image of God (in



which man was created), and according to the image of Christ, we ought to (leave our beard undisturbed or) wear our beard (at least in part), and that no brother should be so far advanced who could not deny himself in this matter.

Art. 2. Whether a brother might serve in a worldly office or as a juryman.

Considered, that no follower of Jesus can serve in such, and if he could get relieved with money (by paying a fine), he should not serve herein.

Art. 3. Whether there should be something of the supper on the table at feet-washing.

It was the unanimous agreement in the council of the great meeting that it should not be.

Art. 4. Whether it is right for a brother to take the benefit of the law.

Considered, that when a brother is so imprudent that he falls under the power of law, he is not to have privilege to take the benefit of the law, but to seek counsel from the church. Yet it would be always best to seek counsel before a member comes so far.

Art. 5. When a member is put in avoidance, how far is his companion in wedlock to be held as a member?

It was considered, that she may be held as a member, yet so as not to break the bread of communion.

Art. 6. How far should a brother keep house without counseling the church, or members without counseling the house-keeper?

It was considered, that the brother who is housekeeper should always act in concert with the church, especially with his co-laborers in the church, and just so his co-laborers should always counsel with their elder brother, and a private brother should not undertake to teach or serve until the church calls him to it.

Art. 7. Concerning the abuse of tobacco.

This has been before the meeting already before this, and was always considered a shamefully bad habit (German, Untugend)—and every thing bad, says the apostle, is sin, and sin defileth the body; and another apostle says, that your bodies, together with soul and spirit, shall be holy.

Art. 8. How it is considered, when members will not heed the counsel of love of the brethren, with regard to conforming to the world in clothing, etc.?



It was considered, for the third time in the great council, that when a member has been admonished in love once and again, we would not break bread with such. But at this meeting it has been considered, that when they will not receive counsel in love, we could not hold such member in full fellowship according to the gospel. Also such who permit those high fashions in their children who are yet under their control, and especially the bishops and ministers in the church should be examples of the flock.

Art. 9. With regard to distilleries (held or carried on) by members of the church, it was again testified that it could not be permitted.

Art. 10. How is it viewed when a brother assigns his property to another, with a view to defraud his neighbors (creditors)?

It was considered, that we cannot hold them in fellowship.

Art. 11. Whether we might have two tables at love-feast, and also at other meetings; that is, whether members might prepare something warm for the old brethren, and also elderly and weakly members, besides what is served up for all in general.

Considered, that members should be at perfect liberty to show their love toward their old brethren or weakly members, to set before them what they like; yet we would counsel in love to be careful that no bad distinction is made, so that friends and well-wishers are preferred to those that are weakly.

Art. 12. Whether it be right for a follower of Jesus to take interest.

Considered, that neither the law nor the gospel gives us such privilege, and that it should not be among the membership.

Art. 13. How shall the church conduct itself toward those members that have been separated from the church?

Considered, first, that when a member is separated from the church as far as from the kiss, the breaking of bread, and church council, such ought to be diligently exhorted according to the evidence of the apostle, but could not be called brother. But when such would not receive the admonition of love, and should fall into more grievous sins, the church has to put them in avoidance, and have no company with them, according to the word of the apostle.

Art. 14. Concerning breaking up in the morning after love-feast,

It was considered that members and their children who stay till morning, should not separate and leave until prayer and thanksgiving to God is made.

Art. 15. Whether a brother may take the liberty to go on the



muster ground or take part in the festivities of Independence-day?

Considered that no brother should take the liberty to go to such places.

Art. 16. When a member is put in avoidance, how far is his companion in wedlock to be held as a member?

It was considered that she may be held as a member, yet so as not to break the bread of communion.

Art. 17. With regard to persons who live in adultery,

It was considered that they could not be received into the church as long as they live in such condition.

Art. 18. Concerning the form or proposing oaths in order to save one's conscience for the gospel's sake, whether we could answer with yea such a form, "And this you do under the pains and penalties of perjury?"

It was considered, if a brother were grieved herein, let him counsel whether there was no other form for us.

Art. 19. Concerning the form or manner of swearing oaths to save our consciences for the gospel's sake, whether we could answer with yea such a form, viz.: "And this you do under the pains and penalties of perjury?"

It has been considered, that if a brother were oppressed or troubled herein, let him consider or seek counsel, whether there is no other form for us.

Art. 20. At the yearly meeting in Ohio, 1822, the question was presented, whether such as were not members could be present in our church councils, and the answer was:

"Considered, as it was at all times considered, that it could not be allowed."

Art. 21. If a brother has a vendue, and gives freely strong drink, how is it considered?

It was considered, that no brother should give strong drink at the sale of his property.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1825.

D. Mohlers, Cumberland Co., Pa.

Article 1. Whether a brother may keep and sell strong drink, has been considered thus:

Because so often disorder is caused by strong drink, it is im-



proper for a brother to sell it, and should not be at all suffered.

Art. 2. Whether a brother may take a mortgage or judgment bond of another brother.

Considered, that brethren should be as careful of the interest of their neighbor as of their own, and not be selfish; and inasmuch to take bail for large sums is deemed wrong, it is not improper to secure a debt by mortgage or judgment.

Art. 3. Concerning separation or excommunication, being viewed of unequal degrees.

It was considered, that according to apostolic doctrine, such having committed gross or vicious sins, must be put entirely in avoidance, while less transgressions only precluded from the kiss, brotherly counsel, and the breaking of bread.

Art. 4. Whether a brother may teach singing-schools.

Considered, that the musical schools, as they are generally conducted, have nothing to do with the service of God, and that a brother should teach none.

Art. 5. Whether a brother minister that involves himself in debts, and assigns his property to his children, could serve in the ministry of the word,

Considered, that when the creditors should be defrauded thereby, he should give himself over to the (judgment of the) church, and without doubt ought not to serve (in the office of a minister).

Art. 6. Concerning a brother holding the office of justice of the peace, has been twice before the big meeting, and was always considered that it was not at all consistent with the gospel; but as something more definite is requested, the counsel is now,

If such an one has been admonished already before to give up that office, and is once and again admonished (in the name of the church) to do so, and will not give it up, such an one we could not hold as a brother.

Art. 7. At the yearly meeting in Morrison's Cove, 1825, the question was presented, "In case members commit a public fault for which an acknowledgment is required, should it be made publicly, or only before the church?"

It was considered, in case the transgression was made without the church, and is deemed by the world a fault, and the transgressor should feel in himself urged to it (to make a public confession), in such case it might be good; but if it should be something that is not deemed a transgression by the world, and the conviction were not truly born from within, or from the heart,



then it would be no light before the world, and it would be better done before the membership.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1826.

Place unknown.

(1) May 13, 1826.—During a great meeting at the house of Brother Daniel Reichardt it has been taken in counsel how in the fear of the Lord it is regarded and if it is proper, that a brother should serve in the office of an Assembly, and it was generally decided and with many texts proven that it is not fit for a true follower of Christ, who is a “gone out one” and touches nothing unclean, that he should fill such an office; and it would be better to do according to the counsels of the Apostle and cling to humility.\*

Michael Myer, Daniel Gerber, Samuel Arnold, Johannes Flory, Christian Long, Daniel Bollinger, Johannes Gerber, George Brumbaugh, Daniel Seiler, Nicholas Martin, Johannes Brumbaugh, Daniel Arnold.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1827.

Lancaster Co., Pa.

Article 1. About the ordinance of anointing the sick.

The manner of proceeding has ever been, first to sing a few verses, and with a united prayer to turn to God. Then (there should always be two brethren) the one reaches forth his hand and the other poureth the oil on it, and the first puts the same on the head of the sick, and says the words, which the Apostle James teaches (chap. 5: 14), “Thou art anointed in the name of the Lord,” and thus three times, but the words only once said. Then both brethren lay their hands upon the head of the sick, and pray over him, for it is not considered to be intended only an inward unction, but an outward anointing, whereof the apostle speaks, as mentioned before.

Art. 2. About the avoidance and restoration of members.

When a member, on account of crimes committed, must be separated and put in avoidance, and should afterward become reformed in life and conduct, and apply for restoration or for release from the avoidance, and the church could not yet feel satisfied to restore such entirely, they might be released; and should

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\* Brumbaugh's History of the Brethren, page 489.



such fall again into crime, we would have a right to put them again into avoidance.

Art. 3. Concerning receiving persons who have been baptized in the proper manner by other denominations.

Considered, that those who have been received before with the laying on of hands (and prayer), we receive with hand and kiss; and those on whom the laying on of hands had not been observed, we should receive by the laying on of hands, etc., etc.

Art. 4. Concerning receiving sick persons who can not be baptized on account of their sickness and weakness,

Considered, that they might be received, and if they should die, they might die as members, but if they should live and be well again, they should and would be baptized.

Art. 5. Whether a brother holding an office in the church may distill ardent spirits, was considered,

Concluded that it is not becoming for any brother to do so, much less for a brother in office.

Art. 6. Whether there should be no other meat but mutton at the supper.

Generally considered as most agreeable (to our feelings "gemuthlichste") to take mutton, as it has been always customary with the ancient brethren, yet to make no law herein, and to bear with one another.

Art. 7. With regard to selling bonds,

It was considered, that none should be sold by which poor people might be oppressed; but since circumstances are so different, the church should be counseled (asked for counsel in any case).

Art. 8. How is it considered to lay carpets in (our) houses?

It was considered that it belongs to the grandeur (highness) of this world, and that it will not become a follower of Jesus to garnish his house in this manner, but rather that he should adorn his house as may be consistent with lowliness.

Art. 9. Concerning taking pay for solemnizing marriages and preaching funeral sermons.

It was unanimously considered, that it should not be among brethren.

Art. 10. Whether we may be allowed to hold infares?

Considered, that it (such things) belongs to pride, extravagance, and vanity, and should not be among members.



Art. 11. How is it considered, if a brother keeps a brewery, and makes strong beer?

Considered, though it could not be directly forbidden to a brother, but ought to be left to his own conscience, and (yet we wish) to advise him that the safest way would be, no to carry on such a business, from which may arise so many and great disorders.

Art. 12. Concerning members who engage in the raising of tobacco?

Considered, that members should have nothing to do with such things, by which so much mischief is done, and so many men (and women too) are led captive, as is the case with tobacco.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1828.

York County, Pa.

Article 1. Whether a brother can belong to the Freemasons and still be a brother (in the church)?

Considered, that it can not be.

Art. 2. Whether we may conform ourselves to the world with unnecessary things on our carriages?

Considered, that it can not be. (See foregoing note.)

Art. 3. Whether brethren may go to the elections?

It is the opinion of most of the brethren that we should keep ourselves free (clear) of them.

Art. 4. Whether we may do labor on Sunday.

It was deemed good to refrain from it.

Art. 5. Whether a member might be anointed more than once.

Considered and decided, that it may be done on request of the sick person.

Art. 6. Whether a person may be received into the church, having been immersed but once?

It is the counsel to be better that they should be baptized again in the true order.

Art. 7. Whether we had a right to cause a candidate for baptism to make a vow?



It was considered, that it is according to the gospel to receive them in the order of the Brethren as usual.

Art. 8. Whether the holy kiss should be observed at foot-washing and the breaking of bread?

Considered, that it is right and proper.

Art. 9. Whether the holy kiss should have a place at foot-washing (between those who serve and those who are served); and at (before) the breaking of bread?

Considered, that it should be. The new commandment (John 13: 34, 35) brings it very near to both ordinances, and a love-feast without this token of love would scarcely deserve the name.

Art. 10. Whether we might have small love-feasts?

Art. 11. Whether brethren may have carpets in their houses.

Considered, that it can not and should not be, because it leads to elevation (pride).

Art. 12. Whether brethren may have distilleries.

Considered and concluded that it should not be, nor by their children, as far as the authority of the parents extends; and if such a brother will not take (or obey) the advice, we could not commune nor have fellowship with him. Also, to sell grain to distilleries (especially) when grain is scarce, should indeed not be.

Art. 13. Whether, if a member sees another member commit sin publicly against truth, the first is in duty bound to speak privately to the failing member, or (at once to) present the case to one of the leading brethren?

Considered (whether to do the first), it is as a member may choose but to do the latter remains his duty, inasmuch as public sins can not be atoned for between member and member.

Art. 14. Whether we may build meeting-houses?

Considered, to leave it over to every church to do as they deem good.

Art. 15. Whether we might hold small (private, not publicly announced) love-feasts?

Considered, in cases where there are but few members (or where a member is on a sick bed, desirous to partake once more), provided that one ordained brother would be present, and that every thing would be done at the right time and in proper order, there could be no objection at all, and it would not be contrary to the (word of) truth; yet care should be taken that it may not cause grief (pressure) or loss of affection.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1830.

Pipe Creek, Md.

Article 1. Whether a minister may break the bread of communion and communicate the cup of thanksgiving to a sick person who is not a member?

Considered, as contrary to our faith and conscience, and as more advisable to point or direct the sick to Christ and inward communion. Another question presented and answered, that sick persons, who wish to be baptized, but feel too weak, might be received under the promise, that if restored to health they would submit to the command and ordinance of Christ, and in case of their death they may find comfort in the reflection that God sees their good intentions, and may accept them for the deed.

Art. 2. Whether a brother may take a wife who has already a husband, but is deserted and set free by him?

This has long since been considered that it can not be according to the word and gospel.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1831.

Conestoga, Pa.

Article 1. Whether it was considered advisable for a member to have his son educated in a college?

Considered not advisable, inasmuch as experience has taught that such very seldom will come back afterward to the humble ways of the Lord.

Art. 2. Whether it could be approved of when the brotherly kiss is so often omitted, even at meetings and love-feasts?

Considered, no, not at all.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1832.

Rockingham County, Va.

Article 1. How is it considered if a brother serves on a grand jury, and bears testimony against a brother, by which the latter is caused to suffer costs, and the testimony is not given from necessity or duty, but from want of love?

Considered, that serving on juries was ever deemed improper for brethren; but in this special case the church where it occurred,



and who should know and weigh all the circumstances, should judge according to the law of Christ, according to the testimony.

Art. 2. Whether such may participate in the Lord's Supper who are not members, if there is room?

Considered, to leave it to the churches, when there is such room.

Art. 3. Whether it would be approved, when brethren engage in storekeeping and selling of strong drinks?

Considered, the first might be allowed in cases of necessity, where a brother has no other way to make a living, but the latter in no case whatever.

Art. 4. Concerning the omitting of the holy kiss among members.

Considered, that it should not be, and that it is an evidence of a want of love.

Art. 5. How to do when a brother is indebted to another, and becomes insolvent?

Answer. The church should deal with him according to the circumstances or degrees of aggravation, according to the word.

Art. 6. How is it considered concerning persons who wish to be received, and had already been immersed but once by other Baptists?

Considered, that some have been received without baptism, as we believe it ought to be performed, and they afterward came of their own accord to receive the baptism according to the word.

Art. 7. Whether at a council concerning candidates for baptism, their nearest friends should withdraw?

Decided as before.

Art. 8. Change of the time of yearly meeting. Meeting to commence on Pentecost, with public meeting and love-feast. Monday and Tuesday, council meeting.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1833.

Lost Creek Church, Juniata Co., Pa.

Article 1. Whether we are to immerse at baptism once or thrice?

It was considered, that we can not deem any other baptism as valid, according to the word of God, but a threefold immersion.



Art. 2. Whether there is any difference in using the law for our own benefit or only as executors or administrators?

Considered, there is none in reality; it is wrong for ourselves, it is wrong if we do it for others.

Art. 3. Whether a brother who was chosen to the (ministry of the) word in one church, and moves into another with a good testimony, can be relieved from his office (or rather literally put back from it)?

It was always considered, when a ministering brother moves out of the church which chose him, he moves out of his office—that is, before he is fully ordained; and that it was at the option of the church into which he moves to receive him with his office or not. If his life and conduct inspire love and confidence, it will not be long before he may be called to exercise his ministry again. Have patience!

Art. 4. Whether a person may be admitted to our (communion or) breaking of bread, who is not baptized according to gospel (as we understand it)?

Considered, no.

Art. 5. Whether the supper must be on the table at feet-washing?

(No; there is no such command in the gospel; and if the example of Christ is urged, it is also a mooted, doubtful question on this point. It must be recollected that the translators of our modern version of the New Testament did not believe or practice feet-washing, or know anything about the real Lord's Supper, calling the communion of bread and wine the Lord's Supper. We all believe that John 13: 2 is wrongly translated by saying, "Supper being ended" before feet-washing is mentioned, while it is evident, from verses 26-30 that the supper was not ended then.)

Art. 6. Whether the supper must be on the table at feet-washing?

Answered as before.

Art. 7. Whether a member has a right to appeal to the yearly meeting, when put back by the council of his church?

The answer, not recorded, was similar to the following:

Art. 8. About the making and using of strong drink, a strong testimony was made at this meeting against it.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1834.

## Stark County, Ohio.

Article 1. How it is considered to sing at or during the breaking of bread?

Considered, as not proper, but at the distribution of the cup very proper. It was also remarked, that there should be no drinking without necessity while the supper is served, until all is served up, and a blessing asked of God, because we are to "tarry for one another."

Art. 2. Whether we may work on Sunday, such as sawing (on sawmills), shooting, moving, etc.

It was considered, that it should not be by any means, but that we ought to spend Sunday in stillness, and in the fear of God, in order to be offensive to no one.

Art. 3. Whether we may take interest from a brother?

Considered somewhat differently, but our (charity) moderation should be known, and we should be willing to lend to the poor without interest.

Art. 4. Whether we could receive into our church a person that has been immersed once backward, without baptizing him again?

Considered, that though it has been done before, still we believe that the best and safest way is to baptize them right, and according to the proper order (as we believe), and that hereafter it should not be done otherwise.

Art. 5. How it is considered, when a member who was received after having been baptized with only one immersion backward, without receiving baptism according to our order, moves into another church, and there is required to be baptized?

Answer in foregoing article 4.

Art. 6. Concerning a certain brother's certificate; whether a certificate could be given to a brother minister who moves away from his church without paying his debts?

Special advice given, but not noted.

Art. 7. How is it viewed when a ministering brother, as executor or administrator of an estate, is compelled to use the law?

Considered, he should do nothing without the counsel of the church.



Art. 8. Concerning the office of supervisor and other worldly offices,

Considered, that brethren should keep themselves clear of them as much as possible.

Art. 9. Concerning high and fashionable clothing, etc., and conformity to the world,

It was considered a great evil as heretofore, which is not to be tolerated in the church.

Art. 10. How it is considered when a brother, not yet ordained, should administer the communion in presence of ordained brethren?

(If the ordained brethren desire him to do so, there can be no objection; on the contrary, it is desirable for young hands in any work to have more experienced friends near to advise or assist.)

Art. 11. Whether a brother can serve on a jury, where a man is tried for his life (as a murderer)?

Considered, no, it can not be at all.

Art. 12. If a brother who is a minister should transgress so that the church has to set him back, and if he is afterwards received again upon his acknowledgment, whether he is to be received with or without his office?

Considered, that depends upon the church, and also upon the nature of his transgression.

Art. 13. Concerning a sister's preaching.

Not approved of; considering such sister being in danger, not only exposing her own state of grace to temptation, but also causing temptations, discord, and disputes among other members.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1835.

### Cumberland County, Pa.

Article 1. How is it viewed to receive colored people into our church?

Considered, to make no difference on account of color.

Art. 2. Concerning the trouble between Bro. M. L. and the church, L. was earnestly admonished by the old brethren to amend his ways; not to creep into houses in order to bring members into confusion and cause division in the church, inasmuch



as they (the old brethren) saw and understood what manner of spirit was in him. For if he should come so far as to speak in a traducing and railing spirit against the church, he would have to be put in avoidance.

Art. 3. Concerning taking interest.

Considered not allowed by the gospel, and brethren should beware of usury (unlawful interest) especially.

Art. 4. How it is considered when brethren go with their children to shows?

Considered, it should not be.

Art. 5. How it is viewed to elect brethren for the ministry by lot?

Considered, to abide the manner of holding a choice hitherto observed.

Art. 6. Concerning the commencement of Yearly Meetings on Saturday, or according to the ancient order.

No change made at this time. (See further, "Annual Meetings.")

Art. 7. How it is considered when brethren go to muster and drill?

Considered, that it is contrary to our baptismal vow, contrary to the word of God, and contrary to the professed principle of the church, and can by no means be permitted or tolerated.

Art. 8. How is it considered, if ministers move into churches where there is no ordained elder, whether they can be received where no bishop is present?

No; there ought to be one or more bishops invited for the occasion, or the matter postponed to another time. Meanwhile, those new comers may serve in their office as guests.

Art. 9. How it is considered to sell grain to distilleries?

Should not be, except in case of necessity.

Art. 10. How it is considered when brethren keep tavern?

Considered, as entirely unbecoming for brethren.

Art. 11. What is the the order to receive applicants for baptism?

It is necessary that there should be self-knowledge, repentance, and faith, together with scriptural instruction, and then that it may be done with the counsel of the church.



Art. 12. How it is considered to receive colored persons into the church? (The object of the question was not whether they should be received at all, but whether they could or must be received or treated altogether like white members.)

It was considered, that inasmuch as the gospel is to be preached to all nations and races, and if they come as repentant sinners, believing in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and apply for baptism, we could not consistently refuse them. But inasmuch we receive our fellow members with the holy kiss, and there is a repugnance in some of our white members to salute colored persons in this manner, the colored members should bear with that weakness, and not offer the kiss to such weak members until they become stronger, and make the first offer, etc. Otherwise, if they (the colored members) prove faithful, they should be considered on an equality of full membership.

Art. 13. How it is considered when brethren go with their children to shows?

Considered, it should not be.

Art. 14. Concerning the commencement of yearly meetings on Saturday, or according to the ancient order.

No change made at this time.

Art. 15. What is the duty of a visiting brother?

First, as visiting brethren and overseers of the poor in the church, they have to assist and attend to the yearly general visit from house to house; and it is necessary, and their duty, when the church is divided into different visit districts, to take the lead in the visit as well as that of the ministers; and in case the ministers could not assist on account of sickness, it is the duty of the deacons to carry out the visit with other brethren, and to bring before the minister and the church what they have found. Further, when anything of importance is to be investigated in the church, the ministers have the right to request them (the deacons) to accompany them, or if the case is not of special importance to send them (the deacons) to investigate the matter and bring it before the ministry. Further, it is their duty, inasmuch as they have been elected to be overseers of the poor, to visit the sick, especially if they are poor, who may be in distress by reason of sickness or other causes, to examine their case, and to report to the ministry, and, if necessary, the ministers to hold a council with the church what is further to be done. When money or grain is contributed in the church for the poor in the church, it is their duty to keep a regular book account of what they receive and what they lay out for the poor or otherwise for the church, so that they are able at times to render an account with and to the church. Upon the whole, all that may occur in the church and is to be investigated, is committed to their care, and if they hear of any thing, to bring it before the ministers, to counsel whether it is to be examined, and to see it done if found necessary.



Further, it is their calling to assist the ministers at meeting, by reading the Scriptures, by using freedom in prayer, and to bear testimony to what was spoken; and if it should happen that no minister (of the word) could come to meeting, it is their duty to lead the worship by singing, prayer, and reading the Scriptures, and if they feel so, to exhort to the edification of the congregation; yet it was the counsel of the old brethren that it is not their calling to rise on their feet in order to exhort; and thus to conclude the meeting in the usual order, and to make the ordinary appointments for meeting. Again, when a minister is called to hold meetings in another district, and he requests the visiting brethren to give him company and assistance, it is their duty to assist, and one or the other to go with him.

Further, it is their duty to serve at tables; when a love-feast is held, to make the necessary preparations, to call as many other brethren as they need to assist, and at the time of the love-feast to see to it that the sisters can get all things ready at the proper time, and themselves setting the tables, and so in all things see to it that everything is done decently and in order.

Art. 16. Concerning going to elections and serving as jury-men.

It was considered in both cases, that brethren should hold themselves loose as much as possible, or entirely, which is best. Particularly, no brother should take part in electioneering at an election, which is deemed very hurtful and should not be among brethren, etc.

Art. 17. Concerning serving on juries at trials for life or death?

Answered as before.

Art. 18. How is it viewed for brethren to sell grain to distilleries?

Considered, that it should not be, especially if grain is scarce and high in price. Besides, it was mentioned of the abuse and harm which comes from what is made by the distiller, and that brethren should take no part in it, and by no means use distilled liquors for a common beverage, nor offer it to those that work for them.

Art. 19. How is it considered, when members wash the feet or salute with the holy kiss those who are not members of the church?

Considered, we should not do so, if it gives offense.

Art. 20. How is it considered, when brethren keep tavern?

Considered, as entirely unbecoming for brethren.

Art. 21. What is the order to receive applicants for baptism?



It is necessary that there should be self-knowledge, repentance and faith, together with scriptural instruction, and then that it may be done with the counsel of the church.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1836.

### Cumberland County, Pa.

Article 1. Whether a brother would have a right to take such money, which he had acquired as a soldier by war?

Considered in union, that it can not be, according to the doctrine of Jesus.

Art. 2. Whether a brother or sister could be allowed to sell strong drink?

Considered, that it should absolutely not be.

Art. 3. What is to be done with a brother who professes and claims to be urged by the Spirit of God to preach the gospel, and who is not chosen by the church for it?

He is counseled and allowed, after the elect brethren have spoken, to make known by exhortation if there is any thing on his mind; he may also use liberty in public prayer, when necessary, or in reading the Scriptures, provided he is acceptable by the church.

Art. 4. How is it deemed best at the yearly meeting, whether first to hold council, or first public meeting and communion?

It was considered as expedient, to commence on Lord's day with public meeting, and in the evening to break the bread of communion, and afterward to hold council.

Art. 5. When a bishop is old and too feeble to serve in his office fully as he ought, whether (the church) have a right to select another?

The counsel is, to go to counsel with the nearest churches, and if looking on the proposition favorably, and the old bishop and his church would be of one mind, then it might be done.

Art. 6. What should be the name of our fraternity, when a title for a meeting-house is made and recorded in the public offices?

Unanimously concluded to call ourselves the Fraternity of German Baptists.

Art. 7. Concerning work or moving on Sunday,

It was considered improper to do so.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1837.

Linville Creek, Rockingham County, Va.

At an annual meeting held in Rockingham County, Virginia, at the meeting-house near Bro. John Kline, on Linville Creek, the 15th of May, 1837, the following points have been presented to the council of the old brethren, and have been considered in the fear of the Lord:

Article 1. How it is considered, if a member desires to be no more with the church, and yet has committed no other offense?

Since the circumstances are so different, the advice is also different. If a member desires to be off, and doth commit no other offense, we could have patience somewhat longer with such a member than if a member should speak contemptuously of the church; then the church can judge best how soon to let it withdraw, and to place it according to its desire; yet there ought to be employed all possible diligence to bring back to the flock such souls. But if they will not hear, there would be just cause to put them as they desire.

Art. 2. How it is viewed, if a member is accused of a crime only on testimony from out of the church? Whether it would be right to take a member into judgment (before the church) on such a testimony?

The counsel is to make strict investigation, and if there should be nothing found, and the member continued to deny the charge, it could not be judged on testimony out of the church alone.

Art. 3. How it is considered, to make a better arrangement in holding annual meetings according to the pattern of the apostles? (Acts 15.)

The unanimous counsel of this meeting and desire of the old brethren is, to follow the track of the apostles as closely as possible. Therefore the council-meeting ought to consist of the elders and all the members of that church which receives the meeting, and of such teachers, ministers, or (private) members, who may be sent as delegates from the other churches. It is considered necessary that every church, or, where the distance is too great, several churches together, should send two, three, or more delegates to the annual meeting. The yearly meeting is to take place as heretofore on Pentecost or Whitsuntide, and the council-meeting to be held on Friday and Saturday before, to which end the delegates ought to arrive in the neighborhood on Thursday evening. The public meeting begins on Sunday, when a love-feast will be held, and the church is at liberty to invite thereto also neighboring churches as usual. The proceedings of the council-meeting should be immediately recorded in writing, and as much as possible communicated to all the churches.



Art. 4. How it is considered, to administer the anointing of the sick, or to hold an election, without an ordained brother (elder) being present?

It is the advice, that the anointing of the sick should not be administered without an ordained brother, except in a case of necessity, that no such is to be had; for the word says: Call for the elders of the church. As to holding elections, it is considered that no election ought to be held without the presence of (two or) at least one ordained brother.

Art. 5. If a brother is at liberty to serve as crier or clerk at public vendues?

It is the counsel of the meeting, that no brother should take the liberty to cry at vendues, because it is unbecoming for a brother so to serve. As to the clerkship at vendues, it could not be considered quite so unbecoming, yet so that brethren ought to refrain from such things as much as possible.

Art. 6. Whether the sense of the words of the Savior (Matt. 18), "Let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican," is the same as the sense of the apostle, when he says (1 Cor. 5), "Have no company with him," etc.

It is understood by the meeting almost unanimously, that the expression of the Savior, "Let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican," excludes a member only so far as from the church-council, from the kiss and the breaking of bread; but that it is the sense of the apostle, when he speaks of the vicious, "Have no company with him," and after noticing the vices adds yet, "with such a one (you ought) no not to eat," that we ought to avoid such a one altogether according to the sense of the word.

Art. 7. How it is considered if members go to the public election and vote, or even previously already electioneer for the candidates of office?

It is the advice of the old brethren to keep ourselves also in this respect as free as possible, and rather not go to the election. As regards electioneering, it is the sense of the brethren that no brother ought to interfere so far with the offices and government of this world, according to the word.

Art. 8. When persons desire, to be received through baptism into the church, if it be necessary, to instruct them before baptism of the taking of oaths, going to war, and the like, that according to our view it is forbidden in the gospel?

The advice is, that such persons ought, if possible, to be visited before their baptism, and by all means to be previously instructed of the following points, viz.: Of the taking of oaths, going to war and to muster, to use the power of the law contrary



to the gospel, and to conform to the fashions of this world in apparel and the like; and that they ought to state before their reception their willingness to refrain from all such things.

Art. 9. How it is considered if members take more than lawful interest?

Considered, that it ought to be by no means; and if a brother should do so, he ought to be visited, and if he would not take advice, we could not be satisfied with him.

Art. 10. How it is considered if a brother buys and keeps slaves, and sells them also for gain?

Considered, that it could in no wise be justified in a brother, according to the gospel.

Art. 11. How it is considered when a brother keeps a brewery, and makes strong beer?

Considered, that it could not be directly forbidden to a brother, but ought to be left to his own conscience, and to advise him that the safest way would be not to carry on such a business, from which may arise so many and great disorders.

Art. 12. How it is viewed to receive persons into the church without baptism, in case of sickness and bodily infirmity?

Considered, that we have no express word for it, and that it would be more advisable and more safe to direct them to the mercy of God in Christ. Yet we would in certain singular cases not set bounds, but advise all teachers to be careful to do nothing without the counsel of their fellow laborers, and, if it be possible, of their church.

In conclusion, the brethren united to hold their next yearly meeting with the brethren in the neighborhood of Hagerstown, Maryland, on Pentecost, 1838.

Signed by the elders present—Daniel Gerber, John Flohry, David Pfautz, Daniel Arnold, Joseph Gerber, Christ. Johnson, John Price, George Hoke, Abraham Gerber, Benj. Bowman, Abraham Yandt, Daniel Reichard.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1838.

### Washington County, Md.

At the yearly meeting, held in Washington County, Maryland, on the 1st and 2nd of June, Anno Salutis 1838, the following queries were laid before the council of the—in God beloved—brethren, and considered in the fear of God:

Article 1. Whether a congregation has the right, according to the gospel, to put a member in avoidance or not?



Considered that the old brethren always have thought it right, and still think it right, according to the gospel, to put members in avoidance in accordance with the word of the apostle. 1 Cor. 5: 9-11.

Art. 2. Whether it is considered proper to hold singing-schools in our meeting-houses?

Chiefly considered, that meeting-houses are no proper places for holding singing-schools therein.

Art. 3. Whether it is proper for a member to build distilleries, or to distill ardent spirits?

Considered, as it has been considered these many years, that it ought not to be.

Art. 4. Whether a common brother has the right to go out, to appoint or let others appoint meetings for himself, or generally to teach publicly without the counsel of the church?

Considered, that a brother who is not intrusted with the office, is not justified so to do. James 3: 1.

Art. 5. Whether a member has a right to appoint a meeting for a teacher who is not in our connection?

Considered, that it ought not to be according to the exhortation of the apostle. 2 John 5: 10.

Art. 6. Whether it be right to receive again as a private member a brother that was a teacher, and had been put back, without intrusting him again with the office?

Considered, that a congregation has a right to do in such a case as it seemeth good to them.

Art. 7. Whether a teacher has the right to remove out of the church without the counsel of the same?

Considered, that it is right and good that a brother, in such an important undertaking should seek the counsel of his church.

Art. 8. Whether in case a member falls into the judgment of the church, the nearest relations should withdraw while the counsel is taken?

It has always been considered best to let such relations withdraw.

Art. 9. Whether we have the right to appoint deacons without laying hands on them, according to the example of the apostles? Acts 6: 6.

Considered and resolved, to postpone the further consideration of this query to the next annual meeting.



Art. 10. Whether it be right for members to take part in Sunday-schools, class-meetings, and the like?

Considered most advisable to take no part in such like things.

Art. 11. How it is considered when members go to public shows, and even take their children along?

Unanimously considered, that members ought to avoid such places, and to warn their children therefrom.

Art. 12. Whether in case that brethren who are called to some ministry move from one church into another, are received with their office by the church to which they have removed, whether the sisters, their wives, ought to be received with them, as in the case of an election?

Considered, that it would be good to receive the sisters also with them.

Art. 13. Whether persons that have been baptized formerly elsewhere with a threefold immersion, could be received among us as members without baptism or not?

Considered almost unanimously, that when such persons are satisfied with their baptism, having been performed in the right manner, they may be received as members without baptism, yet with stating to them the order (rules, principles) of the brethren, and the laying on of hands. If they should, however, desire baptism, it might be granted to their satisfaction.

Lastly it was resolved to hold the next annual meeting, God willing, by request, with our beloved brethren at Aughwick, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, on Pentecost 1839, yet so that the elders and delegated brethren ought to arrive in the neighborhood as at this time, on Thursday before.

Signed by the elders present—Daniel Gerber, David Pfoutz, George Hoke, John Gerber, Jacob Holsinger, David Engler, sen., Abraham Yandt, John Funk, John Brower, Christ. Johnson, Jacob Pfoutz, Daniel Arnold, Christ. Long, John Price, John Royer, Lorenz Etter, John Farny, John Beeghly.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1839.

Huntingdon County, Pa.

Article. 1. Whether a brother could serve in the office of a constable?

No. (See above, yearly meeting 1812.)

Art. 2. How the supper should be held?

Considered, as it was always held.



Art. 3. What is to be done with a brother who wants to preach, and forces him into it without or contrary to the counsel of the church?

Considered, that such a brother, having been admonished once and again, can not be held as a member in full fellowship, if he is disobedient.

Art. 4. Whether a brother may give his house for holding a (political) election in it?

The answer was no; it should not be.

Art. 5. Whether a brother may be intemperate with strong drink or tobacco?

No.

Art. 6. With regard to the laying on of hands on deacons,

It was considered to leave it as heretofore. (See also yearly meetings, 1844, 1; 1845, 11; 1846, 3; Tenn. 6.)

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1840.

Morrison's Cove, Bedford Co., Pa.

Letter of the Yearly Meeting of the Ancient Brethren, held in Morrison's Cove, Bedford County, Pennsylvania, on Pentecost, June 5-8, 1840, to all their united churches and members:

May the blood of the New Testament in the power of the everlasting Word, be mighty effectual in us all, that we may be and remain followers of Christ in the regeneration until the day of our redemption, when the hidden things of the heart will be revealed, to the great consolation and unspeakable joy of the loving and suffering children of God in Christ Jesus.

In this ardent desire of faith we send to all our in God beloved and in faith united churches and members, brothers and sisters, wheresoever they be, our heartfelt and joint love and greeting, saying with the Apostle Paul, "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Since it has pleased God to spare our lives, and to count us worthy once more to assemble at this yearly meeting, the design of which is to promote our union in love and concord of the spirit, to encourage one another to faithfulness and watchfulness in these last critical times, and to strengthen us mutually in the faith and obedience of the gospel, to warn of dangers, and to re-



sist with united efforts every evil which threatens to break in, and especially in difficulties that may arise, on the request of our beloved brethren, to give our simple advice. There have been at this time laid before us the following points and queries, which we have weighed with the word in the fear of the Lord, and according to the grace bestowed upon us, have answered the same:

Article 1. Whether it be agreeable to the gospel, as the brethren do, hold elections for teachers and deacons?

Considered that our mode to hold elections is according to the gospel, and that we do not know how to improve it.

Art. 2. How it is considered when poor members are left to the overseers of the poor in the township for maintenance?

Considered, that the church to which such a member belongs ought to investigate the case, and to take care of her own poor according to the gospel.

Art. 3. In case one that was a brother, and now is held in avoidance, lives at a distance of several hundred miles from a brother to whom he is owing, and writes back to the brethren he would be willing to pay if he knew how much; whether the latter would have liberty to write to the former how much he owed him?

Considered, that brethren might state and send such accounts, as it was always permitted to settle old accounts with such members, that are held in avoidance.

Art. 4. About the difference among the brethren in regard to avoidance—since, as it seems, some know or observe nothing at all of an avoidance; others take the liberty to eat with or to greet as brethren those that are put into avoidance, which with those who feel themselves in duty bound, according to the word, to observe entirely the avoidance, often times causes temptations and great oppression.

Considered, that it is very much to be lamented that such a difference hath crept in by degrees among the brethren in such a highly important matter, and that it ought to be the ardent desire and the serious endeavor of all the brethren and members, and particularly of the elders and teachers, in observing this evangelic and apostolic ordinance again to come to a perfect unanimity, whereto \* \* \* \*

Art. 5. How it is considered about the visiting of such persons who apply for baptism; whether they must be visited in all cases before baptism?

Considered, that this is a good practice, and that every where



if possible it ought to be introduced and observed, without making any limits in certain cases to make an exception; and where this practice is yet unknown, it would be proper to inform the members thereof, and through them those that wish to be received by baptism.

Art. 6. Whether a brother may take the liberty in a civil lawsuit as defendant to answer for himself or by an attorney, and in case he should consider himself wronged in the first instance, whether he is justified to appeal further?

Considered, that a brother, if he is summoned before a magistrate, may state his case, but before he would go any further he ought to ask the counsel of the church, which will be agreeable with the gospel.

Art. 7. About the more and more increasing evil, that members conform so much to the world in building, house furniture, raiment, etc., and even to have a string of bells upon their horses at sleighing?

Considered that all the brethren and members, and especially teachers, ought to oppose and labor against this growing evil, and to avoid the tinkling of bells as improper for brethren.

Art. 8. Whether we might hold meetings at the houses of members that are excluded (in the first degree, according to Matt. 18), or to visit them in the name of the church on their request?

Considered, that when the excommunicated members appear to be penitent, and request visit and meeting of the brethren, it might be readily granted.

Art. 9. Whether it could be allowed for brethren to go to train (or muster) in the militia?

Considered, that the training or mustering is a preparation for war, and since we are inclined to peace and a defenseless state, it would in no wise be proper nor allowable for brethren to learn war. Isa. 2: 4; Mic. 4: 3.

Art. 10. Whether a public fault could be settled and forgiven between brother and brother?

Considered, that a publicly committed fault can only be settled before the church, and not between brother and brother, according to the word of the Lord.

Art. 11. What is to be done with a brother who is erecting a distillery, and makes and sells ardent spirits?

Considered, that when such a brother has been admonished once and again, and will not be obedient to the counsel of the



church, we could not break the bread of communion with him. Besides, it is the advice of the old brethren, to dissuade all the members from the common use of intoxicating drinks, particularly at buildings, hay-making and harvesting.

Art. 12. How it is considered, when teachers at the beginning of meetings exhort so long, and consume so much time with speaking before prayer?

Considered that it would be more edifying to make the exhortations as brief as possible, since the apostle teaches that first of all supplications, prayers, intercessions, etc., be made. 1 Tim. 2:1-4.

Art. 13. About receiving again members that had been excluded; in what manner it ought to take place?

Considered, that it was hitherto not done the same way as the reception of newly-elected teachers or deacons, where the members do advance toward those elected, but that it was and is the mode of the brethren, the members to remain in their places, and the member to be received again to go from one to the other, and thus to be received, if a brother, by the brethren with hand and kiss, and by the sisters with the hand; and if a sister, by the brethren with the hand, and by the sisters with hand and kiss.

In conclusion, the brethren agreed to hold our next annual meeting on Pentecost, 1841, with our brethren in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Signed by Daniel Gerber, David Pfoutz, Daniel Arnold, Jacob Holsinger, Christian Long, George Hoke, John Price, Daniel Reichard, Abra. Yandt, Michel Dicky, Peter Kober, Isaac Shoemaker, Henry Kurtz.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1841.

Somerset County, Ohio.

As it was customary among us from time immemorial, the old brethren assembled themselves this year again from East and West, and from North and South, in yearly meeting with Bro. William Miller, in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, where on the 28th and 29th of May, A. D. 1841, the following points were presented and taken into serious consideration:

Article 1. Whether it would be right and allowable, according to the gospel, for members to buy lottery-tickets?

Considered, that as a species of gambling for gain's sake, whereby others must necessarily lose, it is wrong, and not allowable at all for a brother.

Art. 2. Whether the brethren practice feet-washing strictly according to the gospel?



Considered, after much conversation and reflection, that feet-washing, as practiced hitherto by the brethren, is according to the word, and that the mode, as far as we could learn until now, could in no wise be improved.

Art. 3. Whether the brethren have a right to admit friends, who are not members, to sit down with us at the Lord's Supper, if there is room?

Considered, that making a proper distinction between the supper and the communion of the body and blood of Jesus Christ, there could be no objection to admit friends to the supper, when there is room.

Art. 4. Whether it is proper for teachers to speak both German and English in meetings, when there are only a few English members, the majority of the church being German?

Considered, that it is right, and our duty, to preach the gospel to every nation as far as we are able, yet so that in such a case not too much time ought to be taken up in English.

Art. 5. Whether a brother, consistently with the gospel, can take the benefit of the law for insolvent debtors?

Considered, that there may be cases where the involving at first and the consequences thereupon are not at all compatible with the gospel, and where the church could not hold such as brethren; and that there may be cases where a brother, by misfortune, may be brought to such extremity, and if he were honest in his declaration, his application for the benefit of the law might even be excusable. In all such cases, however, the church has to investigate the matter, and judge accordingly, and if the church is at a loss, to call in, as in other cases, the assistance of elders from other churches.

Art. 6. Whether members may be brought before the council of the church, and be judged for a crime only on testimony from without—i. e., from persons that are not members of the church?

Considered, that when there is some report abroad of a brother walking disorderly, or having committed a crime, it is the duty of the church to send some brethren to the place where the report has originated, to investigate the matter. If nothing be found establishing the charge, and the member denying the same after a close examination, nothing more can be done. If there should, however, some suspicion be created in the members by the general conduct of the accused, the church may advise such a member not to approach the Lord's table until the matter is cleared up to the satisfaction of the church. But to disown entirely a member on testimony only from without, was not considered right and just according to the gospel.



Art. 7. Whether members may be permitted to obtain and sell patent-rights for their own inventions?

Considered, that it is not advisable for members to take out and sell patent-rights.

Art. 8. Whether a teacher has a right to break the bread of communion to a sick person that is not a member of the church?

Considered, that a teacher has not any authority in the gospel to do so, but that he should direct such a soul to the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, and to the terms and promises of the gospel.

Art. 9. Whether a deacon (visiting brother) may give testimony to what a teacher has said while there is one or more teachers present that have not spoken, and request him to speak?

Considered, that he may, if requested.

Art. 10. Whether a follower of Jesus may attend political meetings?

Considered, that it is not becoming at all for brethren who have renounced the world.

Art. 11. Whether it is becoming for a member of the church of Christ to act as a juror in the courts of our country?

Considered that it would be best not to serve at all even in civil, but by no means in criminal cases.

Art. 12. What is to be done with a brother or member who removes into another church without bringing a certificate of membership along, and who being asked for it is offended by the request?

Considered, that as it has been decided often heretofore, it is requisite for members that remove from one church into another to bring a testimony or certificate along of their standing in the church from whence they came, and that they ought not to be offended at being asked for the same. Should they refuse still to procure a certificate, the church to which they came would have a right to ascertain their standing before receiving them to full membership.

Art. 13. Whether a brother or member could be judged consistently with the gospel without having a hearing before the church, with the privilege to defend himself?

Considered, that no brother ought to be brought before the council of the church for any accusation without having previous information thereof, and without having the privilege of being present



at the hearing of the witnesses, and also of defending himself according to the gospel.

Art. 14. Concerning the use of ardent spirits,

It was considered that it is a great evil, leading to vice and crime, to destruction of peace and property, and to the ruin of body and soul, and that members of the church of Christ ought to refrain from the use of it, except as medicine.

Art. 15. In regard to the next yearly meeting, application having been made heretofore from Swatara Church, in this state, and this year from Mohiccon Church, in Ohio, and from Pipe Creek Church, in Maryland—no application being made this year from Swatara,—the brethren concluded to meet, God willing, in annual meeting next year, on Pentecost, 1842, with our brethren at Pipe Creek, in Maryland, in accommodation of the eastern churches, with the intention of meeting the year following, if the application is repeated, with our brethren in Ohio.

Signed by Daniel Gerber, David Pfoutz, Christian Long, Daniel Arnold, George Hoke, Abraham Yandt, John Hart, John Price, Daniel Reichard, Henry Kurtz.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1842.

Beaver Dam, Md.

At the yearly meeting of the ancient brethren, commonly called German Baptists, held at the Beaver Dam meetinghouse, in Frederick County, Maryland, the 13th to 15th of May, A. D. 1842, the following queries were presented, and considered and answered in the fear of the Lord:

Article 1. Whether the sense of the words of our Savior (Matt. 18), "Let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican," is the same with the expression of Paul the apostle, when he says, "Have no company with him." 1 Cor. 5.

This same query had been before the yearly meeting in Virginia in the year 1837, and a similar one before the annual meeting in Morrison's Cove in the year 1840, and even in the year 1794 (almost fifty years ago) the brethren expressed their sense on the subject, which was read, and the brethren now assembled generally agreed to the then expressed views, desiring with our departed brethren that our dearly beloved brethren would seek to hold fast to the written word of truth, for we fear with them that whosoever will depart from it is in great danger to be deceived in these much confused times. Now he that attends strictly to the word will see plainly that in Matt. 18 quite another case is



mentioned than in 1 Cor. 5. There the Savior speaks of sins and offenses which a brother or sister may commit against a fellow-member. Here the apostle treats of vices and crimes which may be committed against God and the truth. And as there is a difference in the sins, even so is also a difference in the discipline. Already, under the law, there were some sins unto death, where the sinner had to die without mercy under two or three witnesses. Heb. 10: 28. But some sins were not unto death, and could be atoned for by offerings and sacrifices. Even so there is a difference in the discipline under the gospel, as we may plainly see from those passages before alluded to, viz., Matt. 8, and 1 Cor. 5, if we examine them more closely. Therefore the brethren have always considered, and we yet consider, that the divine sense requires to disown a member who will not be told unto when it has been overtaken in a fault, which might have been atoned for by an acknowledgment, for his refusing to acknowledge, only so far as from the church-council, from the breaking of bread, and from the kiss. But a member that has fallen into gross sins and vices should be dealt with according to the word of God, as expressed by the Apostle Paul, viz., "Not to keep company with such a one, no, not to eat."

Art. 2. Whether it will be to the edification of the church of God to hold protracted meetings, and to introduce mourning-benches, in imitation to the new measures adopted by different sects and denominations?

The brethren generally considered, that it was advisable to be very cautious, and at all times to keep good order in accordance with the doctrine and example of the apostles, and not to introduce such innovations like mourning-benches, etc.

Art. 3. Whether our love-feasts could not be held more privately and oftener?

The advice was to select such times and places as experience may teach to be most suitable for this purpose.

Art. 4. How it is considered if a brother or sister signs the pledge of total abstinence?

Considered, that inasmuch as our churches have always been testifying against intemperance, and even against the free use, the making and selling of ardent spirits, it is not advisable for members to put their hands to the pledge, or to meddle with the proceeding and excitement of the world on this subject.

Art. 5. Whether the queries to be submitted to the yearly meeting should not be laid first before the individual church, and be sent with their consent?

Considered, that queries in relation to a particular church ought to be brought in with the counsel of that church, but a brother should not be presented thereby to present any question



that may occur unto him as important and necessary to be considered.

Art. 6. Whether it be proper for a brother who is elected to speak the word, to serve at arbitrations or on juries, etc.?

Considered, as it has been often heretofore, that brethren would do best at all times, if it be avoidable, not to serve, except there is reason to hope that peace may be promoted thereby.

Art. 7. Whether it be right for a brother to deliver a lecture on temperance, if requested?

Considered, as our commission is to preach the gospel, that we should do so and inculcate temperance as well as other virtues; but to hold lectures on the subject of temperance exclusively was considered not to be advisable for a brother.

Art. 8. Whether a person who was married, and whose partner broke the marriage vow by fornication, may marry again according to the gospel, after obtaining a bill of divorce?

Considered, that according to the word of God, Matt. 5: 31, 32; 19: 3-10; Mark 10: 2-12; Luke 16: 18, and 1 Cor. 7: 10, 11, 39, a person cannot marry again while the first companion lives, and that the gospel considers not only the person that would marry again after being divorced, but also the person who would marry the divorced party, as adulterers.

Art. 9. How it is considered, when brethren who are not ordained, in the presence of ordained brethren, without being requested, take the lead at public meetings, and at morning and evening worship; seat themselves at the head of the table, and call upon ordained brethren to be free?

Considered, that order is an essential rule of the house of God, and that it would be most praiseworthy if all the brethren did try in honor to prefer one another, and each one to be faithful in his station, not seeking the uppermost seats, nor forgetting the advice of the apostle (1 Pet. 5: 5), "Ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder."

Art. 10. How it is considered, when a man who holds the office of justice of the peace, is received by baptism as a member in the church, and is permitted to continue in his office until the time should expire for which he was elected; and how it is considered when a brother, or even a deacon, is elected to the same office of justice of the peace, and enters upon the duties of the same?

Considered, that in case a man who holds such an office is convinced of the truth, and becomes willing to obey the gospel, it appears to us there would be no great difficulty to convince



him also that he cannot serve two masters, nor be at the same time a follower of the Lamb and a servant of the world; and as to a brother, or even a deacon, in the church to serve in such an office, it was considered quite inconsistent with the gospel we profess, and that it ought not to be.

Art. 11. Whether it be allowable for brethren to collect debts by force of law, and what is to be done with a brother who uses the power of the law, and justifies himself in the same?

Considered, as always was done by the brethren, that we have no right according to the gospel to use the rigor of the law in collecting debts, and that a brother who has done so falls into the judgment of the church.

Art. 12. Whether a church has the right to make resolutions, framed by men, binding on its members?

Considered, by the elders, and answered thus: If the resolutions are founded upon and in accordance with the gospel to which we are all bound, they are binding; but if they are not according and even contrary to the gospel, we can not be bound to observe them, and no church can make them binding.

Art. 13. As to the next yearly meeting, invitations had been sent from Mohiccon, Ohio, from Conestoga and Conowago, Pennsylvania, and from Botetourt, in Virginia; the Swatara Church having withdrawn their request, stating that circumstances did not permit them at present to repeat their invitation. It was finally concluded that the brethren will meet in yearly meeting next year on Thursday before Pentecost, 1843, God willing, at Mohiccon church, west of Wooster, Ohio.

Signed by the following brethren—Daniel Gerber, Christian Long, John Beeghly, John Price, Dan. Bollinger, David Pfoutz, Jacob Pfoutz, Christ, Jansen, David Ecker, John Sprogle, George Hoke, Jacob Long, And. Spanogle, John Gerber, James Tracey, Henry Kurtz.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1843.

Mohican Church, Wayne County, Ohio.

At the yearly meeting of the ancient brethren, commonly called "German Baptists," held on Friday and Saturday before Pentecost (June 2d and 3d), A. D. 1843, in Mohican Church, at Bro. John Shoemaker's, west of Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio, the following queries were presented, and publicly discussed and answered in the fear of the Lord:

Article 1. Is it agreeable with the word of God for a deacon



(visiting brother) to stand up in public meeting and exhort, when sufficient time has been spent already?

Considered, that according to the word of God "all things should be done decently and in order"; and as teaching is the proper office of the teachers, and not of the deacons, they ought not to go any further than their calling requires of them, where it is not necessary, and it would not be advisable for a teacher to urge them (the deacons) any further than duty calls them.

Art. 2. Whether a brother may refuse the kiss to a brother who hath committed a fault—for instance, getting intoxicated—ere he has been brought and judged before the council of the church?

Considered, that though a member could not be required to salute a brother with the kiss while in a state of intoxication, it is still our duty, first to tell the fault unto the church, and to await its decision, before we withdraw ourselves from a member.

Art. 3. Whether a teacher has a right, in his exhortation to prayer, to give liberty to those who do not choose to bow down with us, to rise up in prayer?

Considered, that we are to exhort our hearers to humility in prayer, and as it is generally the case, to bow down on our knees; but where there is no room, or where the ground does not permit kneeling, the brethren could see no wrong in permitting in such or another case of necessity to rise up on our feet in prayer.

Art. 4. Whether members may take the liberty to go to prayer-meetings, etc., of other persuasions, to take part in them, and to permit and invite ministers of other persuasions to hold meetings in their (the members') own houses?

Considered, that as we have come into very perilous times, according to the word of our Savior (Matt. 24: 22-26), and of his apostles (1 Tim. 4, and 2 Peter 2, etc.) and we therefore have the greatest reason to be seriously on our guard; that prayer is an important part of worship, which must be performed in spirit and in truth in order to be pleasing in the sight of God; that consequently true inward union in prayer with such that are not in one spirit and in the same truth with us can not be thought of; that under these considerations it would be the safest course not to go to such places, nor to take part in such exercises, much less to invite or to receive teachers of whom we may know beforehand that they will not bring the whole apostolic doctrine in order to hold meetings in our houses. 2 John 10.

Art. 5. Whether a brother is put into avoidance, according to the words of Paul (1 Cor. 5), and his wife and children, being members in the church, have company with him, as it happens in a family, how the church hath to treat them, or whether there



is a difference between the wife and the children, who are yet under the lawful age; and how we are to do when there is a difference of opinion about the withdrawing of the hand from those that are in avoidance?

Considered, though we are always truly sorry when such a case occurs, where we must put a member into avoidance, and feel sincere compassion for those that suffer immediately under it, yet we cannot set aside this apostolic ordinance, and do really believe that the more strictly it is observed by all the members, and especially by the nearest relations, the more powerful it would operate to the salvation of the fallen member; but in case a wife could not withdraw from fellowship with the husband to be avoided, it was always considered that such a member could not break the bread of communion while so doing, and we do conceive that children are in the same predicament, either to withdraw fellowship with the parent in avoidance or not to break bread; and in regard to withdrawing the hand, it was considered that when the church concludes to withdraw even the hand, the members should all unite in observing the same.

Art. 6. Whether the ordination of a brother can be frustrated, when the whole church is united on the subject, with the exception of one or a few members?

Considered, that in case the ordination of a brother is judged as necessary and proper by the church and the ordained brethren from a distance, and there could be no weighty objection made by those that are of another opinion in this matter, they ought to acquiesce in it, and the ordination might go on according to the desire of the church.

Art. 7. When a large church, by common consent, has been divided into several districts, and in one of these districts it is found necessary to hold an election for teachers and deacons, whether the members of such district alone are entitled to vote, or whether the members of the other districts have a right to vote also?

Considered, that when such a division takes place by common consent, for the greater convenience of members and of meetings, we understand it that henceforth these several districts are to form so many particular churches, though they may be under the superintendence of but one bishop, and that consequently when one of these districts, or one of these particular churches stands in need of laborers, and has to hold an election, it would be as improper for the members of the other districts to vote at such election as it would be for members from other churches that never formed a part of the old and large district. In case there were no express word for such things, we think we may safely follow the Apostle Paul, when he says (1 Cor. 11: 14), "Doth not nature itself teach you" what is proper?



Art. 8. How it might be considered when, at an election for teachers and deacons, absent members do send their votes with other members?

Considered, that since the promise of our Savior is given, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18: 20), in such important church affairs this promise belongs only to those that are assembled, and not to those that are absent; the brethren generally have acted upon that ground, and not taken any vote from absent members.

Art. 9. How it is considered, when in an important case a visit in the church is performed, and the case laid before the members, and some of them would give their opinion or judgment to the visiting brethren, but did not come themselves to the council-meeting, whether in that case the report of the visiting brethren may be considered as if the members themselves were present?

Considered, in case of a judgment on a matter that has not yet been investigated by the church, in the same light as the question before. But in case of a testimony, where the member could not come personally, we would have to receive it through the visiting brethren as if the member himself were present.

Art. 10. Whether a complaint against a member may be taken up in the church, that is of several years' standing?

Considered, that this depends in a great measure upon circumstances. In complaints of a private nature, between brother and brother, the course which our Savior prescribes (Matt. 18) ought to be pursued; and when we have taken the two first steps toward a reconciliation, without being satisfied, then "tell it unto the church," is the Savior's command; and when the yearly visit has gone round, and the bread of communion hath been broken and we neglected to obey this command, the church is not bound afterward to take up our complaint. But in case a fault had been committed by a member, and was not known to the complaining member until after a length of time, it is still his duty to tell it unto the church, and the complaint is to be taken up by the church.

Art. 11. Whether a teacher, that is not ordained, can excommunicate a deacon or visiting brother on but one brother's testimony, and with only twelve members in council?

The view of the brethren assembled is, that in consideration of the words of the apostle (1 Tim. 5: 19): "Against an elder (which word is taken in the New Testament sometimes in a more limited, and at other times in a more general sense, and may include all those to whom is intrusted an office in the church,) receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses." In consideration again, that as a brother that is not ordained, ought



not to hold an election and install teachers or deacons, so none ought to be excommunicated without ordained brethren being present; and in consideration lastly, that in such a case all the members of the church, or as many as possible, ought to be present, we could not approve of such a proceeding.

Art. 12. How it is considered when one teacher commonly consumes as much time as two, three, and four hours, in one meeting, speaking continually?

The unanimous opinion of the brethren was, that inasmuch as God is a God of order, and such long-continued discourses must needs be fatiguing, both to the teacher and the hearers, cause disorder, and deprive other teachers of the opportunity to speak, to the edification of the church, this conduct is out of all order, and ought not to be, and it would always be best not to prolong our meetings beyond the usual time.

Art. 13. As to the next Yearly Meeting, there was but one invitation, viz., from our brethren on Big Conowago, Pennsylvania (the brethren from Bodetourt, in Virginia, making application for the year 1845), and it was finally concluded that the brethren will meet in Yearly Meeting, next year, on Thursday before Pentecost, 1844, God willing, with the church on Big Conowago, York County, Pennsylvania.

Signed by the following brethren: George Hoke, John Brower, John Hart, George Shively, Henry Metzger, Joseph Showalter, Isaac Beery, John Cable, Daniel Miller, John Shoemaker, James Tracy, Henry Kurtz.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1844.

Conewago, Pa.

At the Yearly Meeting of the brethren, sometimes called German Baptists, held at the house of Bro. Peter Deardorff, on Big Conowago, in York County, Pennsylvania, on Friday and Saturday before Pentecost, May 24th and 25th, A. D. 1844, three brethren from Ohio, four from Pennsylvania, three from Virginia, and two from Maryland, were chosen as a committee, and the following points and queries were laid before, and considered by them, in the fear of the Lord, in public council-meeting:

Article 1. About the laying on of hands on deacons.

This query has been before the Annual Meetings of 1838 and 1839, and the brethren generally considered, that since there is no direct command to do so in the New Testament, and on the contrary the apostle gives advice (1 Tim. 5: 12), "Lay hands



suddenly on no man," it would be best to proceed in this matter as the brethren of old have done. This is, however, laid down with this proviso, that if any brother could throw more light on the subject, it might be presented again to the next Annual Meeting.

Art. 2. Whether there must be something of the supper on the table when feet-washing is observed?

This query has been likewise presented several times before this, and the brethren do still consider that they could not see a better way "to have all things done decently and in order," than the one hitherto followed. 1 Cor. 14: 40.

Art. 3. Whether a brother may go to the legislative assembly, as a representative of the people, agreeably with the gospel?

Considered, that though we look upon the higher powers of this world as being of God, for the protection of the pious, etc., and desire to be thankful to God for the benefits we enjoy under our government, and feel it our duty to pray fervently and daily for the same, we can not see how a follower of the meek and lowly Savior can seek and accept an office of this kind consistently with the gospel he professeth. (See Matt. 20: 25-28; Mark 10: 42-46; Luke 22: 25; John 17: 16, etc.)

Art. 4. In regard to the difference in the form of words, which the brethren use in baptism, it was, after a free discussion,

Considered, since in the practice of a threefold immersion of the kneeling candidate, and in the use of the words of our Savior (Matt. 28: 19), "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost," we are all perfectly agreed, to lay the matter down as heretofore, and to bear with one another in love, yet so that the teachers in one and the same church, or district, ought to use the same form. (See 1 Cor. 1: 10).

Art. 5. About singing in different voices, at public meetings.

Considered that the singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, is a part of divine worship, which we ought to perform always in the spirit, and in truth, and with solemnity; to be watchful, that nothing in our singing should detract our minds from the serious contemplation of what we sing; that we ought to avoid such light tunes which make us merry rather than serious; and that our singing should always tend more to the glory of God, than to the tickling of the outward ear. 1 Cor. 14: 15; Eph. 5: 19; Col. 3: 16.

Art. 6. Whether it be allowable for brethren to collect debts by force of law,

Considered that no brother has any right, in the gospel, to sue at law. Luke 3: 14; Matt. 5: 38, etc., 6: 12, etc.

Art. 7. How is considered the difference in doctrine, that



some teach faith before repentance, and others repentance before faith?

This query had been before a council meeting, some years ago, and was answered thus: "Considered, that the difference arises when the word is not rightly divided. The apostle teacheth us that the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel from faith to faith. Rom. 1: 17. And again, that he who cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Heb. 11: 6. Out of this faith, when it is quickened, repentance will come; and when the repentant sinner hears and receives the blessed gospel, an evangelical and saving faith will issue therefrom, which worketh by love, and maketh itself known by keeping the commandments." To which the present brethren fully assented.

Art. 8. In case where man and wife are both members, and it so happens that the church would have occasion to hold one or the other in avoidance, and after being held thus, say two or more years, without manifesting any fruits of sincere repentance, which would be the most prudent course to take in behalf of the companion of such thus held in avoidance?

Considered, that though we sincerely pity the innocent party, if there has no change taken place in the state of the fallen member, there can be no change in the course of the church toward such a member. But of this, each church must judge according to existing circumstances. (See 2 Cor. 2: 5.)

Art. 9. What to do in case a member, on a sick or death-bed, requests to have the bread of communion broken unto?

Considered, that the word of God does not seem to us to justify the breaking of the bread of communion to an individual member (for where there is but one, there can be no communion), and that therefore we would be more safe to direct such a member to the grace and mercy of God in Christ Jesus, and to the advice of the apostle (James 5: 14), where he says: "Is any sick among you, let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil, in the name of the Lord," etc. If they still insist upon partaking of the bread and wine, in remembrance of their dying Savior, they might be gratified, as it has been done heretofore, if there should be a love-feast in the neighborhood, by sending to them of the blessed bread and wine, or by holding a small love-feast at the right time and in the proper order at their houses.

Art. 10. How a brother is to proceed when application is made for baptism, in a place where there are no brethren to counsel with?

Considered, that if a brother is authorized to baptize, and has taught them according to the gospel, and feels himself satisfied,



he may proceed; but a brother who is not authorized to baptize, ought to inform other brethren, who have the authority to administer baptism. The Savior always sent his disciples by two and two. Mark 6: 7; Luke 10: 1, etc.

Art. 11. Whether our brethren have the liberty, in cases of funerals, to let preachers of other denominations preach in their houses?

Considering circumstances, such as a burying-ground being on the farm of a brother, the weather being inclement, etc., such liberty could not be denied to brethren.

Art. 12. How it is considered, if a member makes an open transgression, and refuses to come to the church to acknowledge it, though he declares his willingness to make acknowledgments before some brethren?

It was considered that such private confession could not be counted sufficient, since the word says (1 Tim. 5: 20): "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."

Regarding the next Yearly Meeting, invitations were sent from Bodetourt and Roanoke, in Virginia, from Conestoga, in Lancaster County, and from Andidum Church, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania; and the brethren concluded that it should take place, God willing, on Friday before Pentecost, 1845, in Bodetourt or Roanoke, in Virginia.

Signed by the committee—David Pfoutz, Christian Long, John Price, And. Spanogle, of Pennsylvania; George Hoke, Geo. Shively, Henry Kurtz, of Ohio; John Bowman, Benj. Bowman, Daniel Miller, of Virginia; John Gerber, Jacob Long, of Maryland; and the following other brethren: Peter Nead, John Mineely, Peter Long, John H. Umstad, Jacob Pfoutz, Jacob Brubacher.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1845.

Roanoke, Va.

At the Yearly Meeting of the brethren, held at the house of Bro. Daniel Barnhart, in Roanoke County, Virginia, on Friday and Saturday before Pentecost, May 9th and 10th, A. D. 1845, all the ordained brethren present were appointed as a committee to receive the messages from the different churches, and to bring in the points and queries which were to be laid before the Yearly Meeting, for discussion, in the fear of God. They were as follows:

Article 1. In regard to the difference in the form of words which the brethren use in baptism,

Considered by the committee, to let this matter rest as it



was laid down last year (see Art. 4), more especially since the brethren and churches are not so generally represented as it would be desirable in such an important matter.

Art. 2. In regard to receiving colored members into the church,

Considered, to leave it to the counsel of every individual church, as it is done in all cases; but if colored persons are once received as members into the church, the members should be at liberty to salute them in like manner as white members, at the same time having patience with those who may be weak in the faith, and can not do so. The assembled elders, however, consider it as the more perfect way, to which we all should strive to come, viz., that love, which makes no distinction in the brotherhood in this respect. (See James 2: 1-10.)

Art. 3. In regard to hiring slaves,

Considered but little better than purchasing and holding slaves, and that it would be best for a follower of Jesus Christ to have nothing at all to do with slavery.

Art. 4. In regard to usury and increase,

Considered that as it was against the law of Moses, and could not be otherwise than against the gospel of Christ, which commands us "to lend where we hope for nothing again," we should be very careful not to ask or take more than lawful interest, and keep an open hand for the poor, to lend them even without interest.

Art. 5. In regard to our being altogether defenseless, not to withstand the evil, but overcome evil with good,

Considered, that the nearer we follow the bright example of the Lamb of God, who willingly suffered the cross, and prayed for his enemies; who, though heir of all things, had on earth not where to lay his head—the more we shall fulfill our high calling and obtain grace to deny ourselves for Christ's and his gospel's sake, even to the loss of our property, our liberty, and our lives.

Art. 6. In regard to members conforming too much with the world in fashionable dressing, building and ornamenting houses in the style of those high in the world,

Considered that it is a dangerous and alarming evil, and ought not to be among the humble followers of the lowly Jesus.

Art. 7. How it is considered, if brethren will force themselves into the ministry, without consent from the elders, and some of the members encourage them in it?

Considered, that inasmuch as it appears by the words of James, chapter 3: 1, by the word of our Savior (John 10: 1),



and of Paul (Heb. 5: 4-7), there is a right way and also a wrong way to enter into the ministry—the wrong way being when one is taking this honor unto himself, and the right way, when one is called of God, by the church, which is the body of Christ, and the order of which calling to the ministry is found described in the Acts of the Apostles. Brethren ought to be very cautious when they feel a desire to preach the gospel, that they do not take the wrong way; rather humble than elevate themselves, and be fully assured that if the Lord wants their services, he has all power in heaven and on earth to bring about their calling to it in the right order and in due time; but if such brethren would still go out of the way, appoint and hold meetings, against the counsel of the church, the church would have to hold them as disobedient members, according to Matt. 17, and members generally ought to be very careful not to encourage and support such brethren in their disorderly proceedings.

Art. 8. How it is considered, if brethren will rebel against the counsel held at council-meetings, and say, it is an abomination to God?

Considered, that such a brother should be visited and exhorted, and if he would not hear and obey the admonition, he could not be held as a brother.

Art. 9. How it is considered, if brethren are accused by the mouth of two or three witnesses, of honest moral character, but not being members, and their testimony against those members agrees, that they were guilty of drunkenness, or any other crime, and the church has cause to believe such testimony, from other circumstances, but the brethren so accused, deny the charge?

Considered, as in the year 1841, Art. 6, that such members might be advised not to approach the Lord's table until the matter is cleared up to the satisfaction of the church; but to judge a brother on testimony from without alone, and without his own confession, would not be just, according to the gospel.

Art. 10. How it is considered, when a brother is carrying on a distillery?

Considered in the same light as our ancient brethren did sixty-two years ago, in an annual council-meeting held on Pipe Creek, in Maryland, June 7, 1783, where they said: "Of this old and offensive evil which has been breaking into the church, and by which already much harm has been done, the counsel of the brethren having often been given that distilleries ought to be done away by members in the church, that they concluded at this time unanimously to exhort those brethren that have distilleries, that they should put them away; and when they have been exhorted once and again in sincere love, and they would still not obey the counsel of the church, and put away this disgusting image, the brethren could not break the bread of communion with them, and should



also withdraw from them the kiss and church counsel, and that so long until they became willing again to be told, as they have promised in the beginning, at their baptism before God and many witnesses."

Art. 11. The question about the laying on of hands on deacons having been brought again before the Yearly Meeting, and being of such consequence and importance,

It was considered, that since our churches are not generally represented—not one brother from Pennsylvania and Maryland, and also not many of our elder brethren, whose counsel had been given last year on this article, being present at this time—it would be best to refer this question to the next Annual Meeting, recommending the same to the consideration of all the churches.

Art. 12. About practicing feet-washing more according to the example of Christ,

Considered, as in 1841, that our practice hitherto was according to the Word, and that we could not improve it.

Art. 13. About the order of Annual Meetings,

Concluded to refer the consideration of this query to the next Yearly Meeting, for the same reasons as in Art. 11, and with the same recommendation to the consideration of all the churches.

Art. 14. Whether a brother has a right to withdraw the kiss from a brother without the decision of the church?

Considered, that inasmuch as our Savior directs us in a case of offense to use all means to gain our brother (see Matt. 18), the gospel allows no brother to withdraw the kiss until the church has so decided.

Art. 15. How is it viewed, when there are persons and members in a meeting, some not understanding the English, and others not the German (language), and there are some members still opposing the use of both languages?

Considered, that the commission of our Savior (Matt. 18: 19) commands us, and the love of Christ constrains us (2 Cor. 5: 14), to preach the gospel to all nations, and in every tongue, as far as we are able. (See also Yearly Meeting 1841, Art. 4.)

[At the special Yearly Meeting in Indiana, 1845, question 6 was, "Whether in a council-meeting of the church the gospel will allow such as are not members to be admitted?" and the answer was: Considered, that inasmuch as our Savior directs us (Matt. 18) the course we are to take with an offending brother, to tell it in the last step unto the church, it seemed to be obvious by (or in) the gospel, that those who do not belong to the church ought not to be in council.]

Art. 16. As to the place and time of our next Yearly Meet-



ing, besides the former invitations from our brethren on Conestoga, Lancaster County, and on Andidum, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, there were also invitations from East Tennessee and from Indiana, and it was concluded that a general council-meeting should be held, God willing, this fall, in Elkhart County, Indiana, on the 26th and 27th of September 1845, and the next Annual Meeting should take place, if it please the Lord, in the Conestoga church, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on Friday and Saturday before Pentecost, in the next coming year of the Lord, 1846.

Signed by George Shively, Abraham Crumpacker, Peter Frantz, John Bowman, Benjamin Bowman, Daniel Barnhart, Peter Miller, Peter Nead, Christian Bowman, Samuel Garber, Austin Hylton, John Gerber, John Kline, Henry Kurtz.

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF 1846.

Trout Creek, Lancaster Co., Pa.

On the 29th day of May, A. D. 1846, the brethren convened in Annual Meeting at the house of Bro. John Royer, on Trout Creek, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and the meeting being opened with singing, exhortation, and prayer, it was concluded that all the ordained elders present should retire, as a committee to receive all those matters which were to be laid before the Yearly Meeting, and these were as follows:

Article 1. As regards the way and manner of holding Annual Meetings, so as to enjoy more order, convenience, and satisfaction,

Considered, in the fear of the Lord, that the counsel of the Yearly Meeting in the year 1837, in this respect, was proper and expedient, if observed, and that the best plan will not mend the matter if it is not carried out. Different plans were proposed, and after a long discussion and mature reflection, it was resolved to make no material change but this: That our western brethren shall have the privilege of taking the Yearly Meeting every other year, if they request it, and that our eastern brethren should not fail to attend the same; that it should be explicitly understood and given out, that Friday and Saturday there will only be private council-meeting—all the ordained elders to form the committee to take in and bring before the meeting those matters to be considered. The public meeting should be on Sunday, and, if possible, not in the same place where the council-meeting is held.

Art. 2. Whether any individual member has a right to bring



queries before the Yearly Meeting ere they have passed the council of the church?

Considered, that it is proper to bring all queries with the counsel of the church.

Art. 3. About the laying on of hands on deacons.

On this much and long-agitated question, it was finally laid down as the safest way to continue as heretofore. The objection—that it was an apostolic order, which ought to be observed—was answered, that (supposing the apostles had laid their hands upon the deacons, which in our apprehension can not be made evident), as little as a single walk of a few men through a wilderness will make a road or beaten track, just as little a thing once done makes it an order, and that if the example of the chosen seven (Acts 7) having had hands laid on them, would have to be observed, as some of our beloved brethren understand it, then we would also have to imitate the example of the same church, which had all things common, and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. Acts 2: 44, 45. But since we do not find in any other church established by the apostles any thing similar, and since there is also no testimony that the apostles ever after practiced the laying on of hands on the heads of the deacons, our beloved brethren will not think hard of us, if under these and other considerations, we abide by that practice with which so many faithful brethren in our churches have been introduced to the office of deacons and speakers of the Word.

Art. 4. Is there, in the churches of the brethren, any material difference among the bishops, so that one has more power than another?

Considered, that according to the word of our Savior (Matt. 23: 8), "One is your master, even Christ: and all ye are brethren," there is no difference in the brotherhood or among bishops but that which a higher age and more wisdom and experience may give. See 1 Pet. 5: 5: "Ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder."

Art. 5. If a member sinneth or is disobedient, so that he is separated from the church, whether he should be publicly excommunicated, as well as he has been publicly received into the church?

Considered that as we do not receive members into the church without the private counsel of the church, so it would be inconsistent with the gospel to exclude them in any other way than by the private counsel of the church.

Art. 6. Whether one that is called a brother, and has committed any gross crime, such as drunkenness, blasphemy, fornication, etc., can continue to be a member in the body of Christ, if he confesses his fault and promises to do better; whether the



church may forgive him or whether he ought not to be expelled, until he shows forth fruits meet for repentance?

Considered, that though we can conceive of extraordinary cases of such total contrition of heart, similar to that kind of leprosy (See Levit. 13: 12-17) which broke out abroad in the skin, and the leprosy cover all the skin of him that hath the plague, from his head even to his foot, and where the priest was to consider him clean; and so the church, likewise, may unanimously feel satisfied with such signs of genuine repentance, and may be willing to forgive at once on his full confession, yet in most cases it is the safest way, in the first place to obey the instruction of the Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 5), and to excommunicate such a member with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Art. 7. Whether a brother may work in distilleries for wages, and whether a brother who owns a mill may buy, sell, and chop grain for distilleries?

Considered, that as the use of ardent spirits is always dangerous to the well-being of society, and the brethren frequently have testified against the making and using of the same, it would be best for brethren not to have any thing to do with it in any shape or form.

Art. 8. About brethren making a will, and treating their children very unequally without a cause.

Considered, that though we would not by any means infringe upon the right of a parent to make a free disposition of his worldly goods in his last will, it would be advisable for a Christian father not to make a great difference among his children without a good cause, and that it would be best to treat children as much alike as possible, so that love and peace may be preserved among them.

Art. 9. Is a brother that was a speaker or deacon, and has moved into another church, properly reinstalled in his office, if an ordained brother takes the counsel of the church, and announces the same to him, without he being received by the members with hand and kiss?

Considered unanimously, by the elders, that inasmuch as he was properly received into his office, by the church in which he was chosen, he would be sufficiently established.

Art. 10. About pride, in its various forms, which is creeping into the church,

It is thought highly necessary that the Yearly Meeting instruct and urge it upon all the overseers of the churches to see especially to that matter, and protest strongly against all manner of superfluity and vanity, such as building fine houses, and having paintings, carpetings, and costly furniture, etc., together with the



adorning of the body too much after the fashion of the world. We believe that we should deny ourselves, and abstain from these things, especially the laborers in the Word, who are called to be ensamples of the flock.

Art. 11. How it is considered by this Yearly Meeting if brethren, who do not wear their beard, are to be advanced to administer baptism and the breaking of bread, or even are to be ordained?

Considered, that we are much grieved; also, in this respect a deviation and want of self-denial is becoming apparent here and there, and that it would be well and laudable if we would not only keep in remembrance, but also put in practice, the example and advice of our beloved old brethren. In 1822 (twenty-four years ago), the query had been asked, "Whether a brother might be chosen to baptize and to break the bread of communion who does not wear his beard?" and was considered that, according to the image of God (in which man was created), and according to the image of Christ, we ought to wear the beard; and that a brother should not be advanced so far, who could not deny himself in this respect." In 1804 (forty-two years ago), the query came up, "Whether, if it be required, we might ordain a brother, as a bishop, who shaves off his beard?" and was considered, that, "as God created man with a beard, and again, God commanded his people, in the law (of Moses), and especially the priests of God, not to cut off the beard, and also, Christ, our master and our example, together with his disciples, may become our pattern in this respect—in consideration of these and other Scriptures and examples, it could not well be done in a sound faith and with a clear conscience."

Art. 12. Whether it is agreeable with the gospel for a sister, who is the widow of a brother, whose property will not suffice to pay his debts, for herself to claim her full third of the estate, if the laws of the land allow her?

Considered, that she has full power to keep what the law allows her; but if there be poor creditors, and she, having a large dower, she ought to be as charitable as her circumstances will permit.

Art. 13. As to the next Yearly Meeting, again request was made by our brethren in Tennessee for a general meeting on the 4th of September next, which was granted by the assembled elders.\* It will, therefore, by the permission of the Lord, take place

\*The following queries are the counsels given by the meeting here alluded to:

Article 1. How, and whether a brother can be received who had been expelled from the church for selling and bill-of-saling away his slaves, and afterward wishes to be received again? Considered, that such a brother cannot be reinstated until he has used every exertion in his power to liberate them, and make full satisfaction to the church.



on said time at the meeting-house near Bro. Joseph Bowman's, in Washington County, East Tennessee. The brethren from the church at Antedum, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, made again application for the next Pentecostal meeting, which was likewise granted, and the brethren will, therefore, if the Lord permit, convene in Annual Meeting in the vicinity of Waynesboro', Franklin County, Pennsylvania, on Thursday before Pentecost, A. D. 1847.

Signed by the following brethren—David Pfoutz, George Hoke, Jacob Pfoutz, Christian Long, John Bouman, Dan. Bollinger, Andre Spanogle, Peter Nead, Dan. Miller, Dan. Bernhart, Jacob Fahrney, John Funk, Peter Long, Dan. Fretz, John Price, John H. Umstad, James H. Tracey, David Shallenberger, Henry Kurtz.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1847.

Franklin Co., Pa.

It was on the 21st day of May, A. D. 1847, that the brethren from the East, West, North, and South assembled in Annual Meeting at the house of Bro. Isaac Deardorff, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, and on the day following entered upon the business of the church, which seemed to be somewhat involved in clouds, and these appeared to lower themselves and become darker. This produced an anxious concern for the future peace and welfare of the church, and at length the Lord in mercy was pleased once more to smile upon his troubled children, and to grant them a joyful expectation of his helping his servants in the arduous task before them. Thus, then, the points and queries presented

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Art. 2. How is it considered for a bishop, with a few members, to expel a member without taking the counsel of the church? Considered, that in all such important matters the church must be counseled.

Art. 3. Whether we should give liberally to preachers of other denominations to speak in our stated meetings? Considered, that it would not be allowed, according to the gospel. (See 2 John 9: 10.)

Art. 4. Whether a deacon can be ordained to the office of bishop? Considered, that we have no authority for so doing. (See 1 Tim. 3: 10, and 5: 22.)

Art. 5. Whether a deacon should fill appointments in the absence of the minister? Considered, that he may, by singing, praying, exhorting, and reading the Scriptures, but that he is not to preach until he is legally authorized by the church.

Art. 6. Whether a deacon has a right to appoint meetings and preach without being authorized by the church? Considered, that he has no authority for so doing, but that he should try to discharge the duties incumbent upon him in the office for which he has been set apart.

Art. 7. Is it obligatory for all the members of the church to wash feet, to follow the example of Christ? Ans. That we should make no change in the observance of this ordinance, but that every member should, as soon as possible, fulfill this command: "Ye ought to wash one another's feet."



were considered and discussed, with rather unusual unanimity, in the fear of the Lord, as follows:

Article 1. Whether we could not amend our plan in holding our Yearly Meetings, that the business might be conducted more quietly and orderly?

Concluded, in regard to our Yearly Meetings, that the brethren meet on Saturday, before Pentecost, and have public meeting till Sunday evening. Love-feast to be held either on Saturday or Sunday evening, at the option of the church where the Yearly Meeting is held. On Monday the council-meeting to begin, and continue until all the business is transacted or disposed of. The council to consist of delegates, not more than two, to be sent from each church, with a written certificate, containing, also, the queries to be presented (by the church whom they represent) to the Yearly Meeting. The delegates to constitute a committee of the whole, to receive and examine all matters communicated to the Yearly Meeting, and to arrange all the queries and questions for public discussion; and after they are publicly discussed, and the general sentiments heard, then the delegates are to decide; and if two-thirds or more of the delegates agree, let the decision thus made be final; but if the nature of the case be such that two-thirds do not give their consent, let it be delayed, until it receives the voice of at least two-thirds of the legal representatives. The Yearly Meetings to be attended by as many teachers and members as may think proper to do so, and the privilege in discussion to be free and open to all who may desire to participate in the same, as heretofore.

Art. 2. Whether a brother or sister, whose companion has broken the marriage vow by fornication, may marry again according to the gospel, after he or she may have obtained a bill of divorce?

It was concluded by the brethren present, that a brother or sister may not. (See Minutes of Yearly Meeting, 1842, Art. 8).

Art. 3. Whether it is advisable for brethren, who are teachers, to occupy a stand three or four steps high, when they are invited to hold meetings in the meeting-houses of the different persuasions or sects through our country?

Considered advisable that teachers should practice discretion and humility, in taking their stands for speaking, and that members should, also, use forbearance, and not take offense, in such matters, if circumstances would make it preferable for teachers to occupy such a stand.

Art. 4. A request that the present Yearly Meeting reconsider the third query, as it stands on the minutes of the Yearly Meeting of 1846, concerning the laying on of hands on the deacons.



It was almost unanimously concluded, that it would be better, for the present, to leave this subject rest as it is.

Art. 5. Would it be considered expedient for a church to elect a brother for the office of deacon, whose wife is not a member?

Considered, that if he be a brother of good report, and one in whom the church may have confidence, this circumstance ought not to hinder the church from electing him to the office of deacon, provided there be no other objections. 1 Tim. 3: 12.

Art. 6. How it is considered, if a brother preaches up the doctrine that Jesus Christ himself baptized, and contends so hard for it, that it has already caused a division in the church?

Considered, that the brethren present, at this Yearly Meeting, unanimously believe that Jesus did not baptize, but his disciples, as recorded (John 4: 2), and they also admonish such a brother not to speak so any more; and if he should still persist in so doing, that he shall not do it in the name of the brethren.

Art. 7. How is it considered, if a brother preach a sentiment, on a part of scripture, that would not be in accordance with the general views of the brethren (yet make good doctrine), whether it would be agreeable to the rules of the brethren, to make it a question at the general council-meeting, and forbid him to preach it, or condemn him for it, as erroneous, without first reasoning with him, or taking the counsel of the church wherein he lives?

Considered, by the brethren present, that no accusation should be brought before the general council-meeting against a brother, in such a case, unless he first having had a hearing before his own church.

Art. 8. Whether it may be proper, and agreeable with the gospel, for a brother to borrow money from banks, or speculating money-lenders, for the purpose of buying and droving cattle, sheep, and horses, or for buying wheat, or other produce, and transporting the same to the Atlantic cities, or other public markets, for the purpose of making gain or profit?

Considered, that we, in general council, would advise any brother not to engage so largely in trading, as there is great danger in so doing, both in a temporal and a spiritual point of view. (See 1 Tim. 6: 9, 10.)

Art. 9. How is it considered, if a brother, or a sister, should have two suits of clothes, one of them plain, to go to meeting in, and one after the fashion of the world to go to other gatherings in?



Considered, by the brethren present, that it is very unbecoming for members to do so, and that it would be the duty of the teachers faithfully to admonish such brethren and sisters again and again, if necessary, not to conform to the world in their dress and habits, as the apostles, also, have warned us. (See Rom. 12: 1, 2; 1 Tim. 2: 9; 1 Pet. 3: 3, 4.)

Art. 10. Would it be proper for brethren to join the secret association of the Sons of Temperance?

Considered, inasmuch as we are to "prove all things, and hold fast that which is good," and as the nature of secret societies is such as to preclude the knowledge of them, before a membership is obtained, we consider it improper for a member of the church to join such an order.

Art. 11. Is it proper for brethren to have their property insured by an insurance company?

Considered, that we can not advise brethren to do so, neither could we forbid its being done, in a mutual way.

Art. 12. As to the place and time of our next Yearly Meeting, invitations have been sent in from our beloved brethren, in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and from several churches in Ohio, and in consideration of last year's conclusion, it was decided that the next Yearly Meeting should take place (with the gracious permission of God) on Pentecost, 1848, at the house of Bro. Jacob Kurtz, in Wayne County, Ohio, about fourteen miles west of Massillon, and eight miles east of Wooster. The brethren are to arrive on Friday evening, or Saturday morning, in order to attend public worship, and then continue with the council-meeting from Monday morning until the business is finished.

Article. 13. As it was deemed necessary to be done, this meeting, therefore, in the conclusion, would advise all the elders and teachers, faithfully to labor in their respective congregations, to settle and reconcile all matters of difference that may take place among them, as far as possible, and not to embarrass the councils of the Yearly Meeting with such local cases, that might be disposed of at home, where all the facts may be more easily and fully obtained; yet after repeated efforts being made to effect a reconciliation, without success, we then conceive it to be the privilege of the brethren to call in the elders, from one or more of the adjoining congregations, to assist; and should this be done without success, it is then the privilege of the brethren, if they think proper, to refer the case to the Yearly Meeting, with as many of the facts and evidences connected with the same as may be convenient to transmit.



Signed by the following brethren: David Pfoutz, John Price, Geo. Hoke, Daniel Bollinger, Jacob Holsinger, Jacob Pfoutz, Jacob Fahrney, John Funk, John Molsbaugh, Philip Boyle, Samuel Miller, David Hardman, John H. Umstad.

A true copy of the Minutes.

Attest: Henry Kurtz,  
Clerk of Yearly Meeting.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1848.

Wayne County, Ohio.

On Monday morning, June 12th, after Saturday and Sunday having been occupied with public worship, the council-meeting was begun at 8 o'clock A. M., solemnly, fasting and prayer having been recommended to all the members present, at early morning worship, and after singing, exhortation and prayer, and also reading the fifteenth chapter of the Acts, business was entered upon by Brethren George Hoke, Jos. Gerber, John Hart, Peter Nead, John Kline, Philip Boyle, and Henry Kurtz, being appointed as a committee to receive the messages from the churches.

The following brethren appeared as delegates:

\* \* \* \* \*

Whole number of delegates was 95, and among them were—ordained elders, 24; elders, 31; teachers, 14; deacons, 15; and private members, 11. Churches represented, 59; and though as fully represented as ever before, it is believed that only about one-third of the churches had sent messengers. The number of papers handed in, amounted to 63. Considering that the reading of all the papers, by one committee, would take up too much time, it was concluded to distribute them among ten committees, which were to examine them, and report thereon to the meeting. These committees were selected from the delegates, as follows:

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The committees having reported, one query after another was taken into consideration, and answered as follows:

Article 1. Is it right to admit, or invite, those who do not belong to our church, into our council-meetings?

Considered, that it is not proper to admit, into our council-meetings, any person who is not a member of the church.

Art. 2. Whether it be proper to reconsider Art. 3, of last year's minutes, relating to preaching from a stand?



Reconsidered, that all our brethren should endeavor, as much as possible, to avoid giving or taking offense.

Art. 3. How are we to receive members into the church, from their first application, until they are baptized according to the gospel?

Considered, that inasmuch as there has been, hitherto, a difference in the practice, and in the form of words used in this ordinance; and inasmuch as it is desirable to be, in all such matters, of one mind, and do and speak the same things, this meeting has unanimously agreed upon the following course, and form of words, and recommend the same for adoption in all the churches:

First, the applicant to be examined by two or more brethren; then, the case to be brought before the church council, before whom the applicant is to declare his agreement with us, in regard to the principles of being defenseless, non-swearing, and not conforming to the world; then, in meeting, or at the water, to read from Matt. 18, verses 10 to 22, in public, the candidates being asked if they will be governed by those gospel rules; then, prayer at the water, and in the water, the following questions to be asked:

Question: Dost thou believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that he has brought from heaven a saving gospel? Answer: Yea.

Question: Dost thou willingly renounce Satan, with all his pernicious ways, and all the sinful pleasures of this world? Answer: Yea.

Question: Dost thou covenant with God, in Christ Jesus, to be faithful until death? Answer: Yea.

Upon this thy confession of faith, which thou hast made before God and these witnesses, thou shalt, for the remission of sins, be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. After baptism, while in the water, the administrator to lay his hands on the head of the candidate, and offer up a prayer to God in his behalf, and then the member is to be received, by hand and kiss, into church-fellowship.

Art. 4. How to forward a brother to the ministry, as speaker, according to the gospel?

Considered, that the church is exhorted to prayer, to guide them in a proper choice, not discussing the subject with each other, but keeping their thoughts before God only; two ordained elders to be invited by the church to hold an election, who shall preside, and declare the one having the highest number of votes as chosen; the brother so chosen, having declared his willingness to fulfill the duties laid on him, is then received by hand and kiss.

Art. 5. Ought we to receive any person into the church without baptism, having been baptized by any other order of people?

Considered, that this Yearly Meeting advise to be very careful in this matter, and give it, as their unanimous conclusion, that it



would be better to admit no person into the church, without first being baptized by the brethren.

Art. 6. Whether the Scriptures require that women, praying or prophesying, should have any other covering than the hair, and whether it includes alike married and unmarried women?

Considered, unanimously, that they all should have a covering on their heads.

Art. 7. How to make arrangement, that in every church brethren be authorized to baptize, and serve at communion tables?

Considered, to leave this to the judgment of the churches, with the advice of neighboring ordained elders, whether they think it necessary or expedient.

Art. 8. Whether the brethren, in annual meeting, could not adopt a plan, that small churches, which seem to be on a decline, could be better attended to?

Considered, that such churches should call on the neighboring churches, and these should attend to them; moreover, it is the advice of this Yearly Meeting, that every ordained brother ought faithfully to perform his duty in this respect.

Art. 9. Whether a brother may be allowed, according to the gospel, to take pay (when offered) for performing the ceremony of marriage?

Considered, that this meeting can not advise brethren to take a fee, and would leave it, as a matter of conscience, to the ministering brother, with the advice of the church in which he lives.

Art. 10. Would it not be better, in selecting the representatives, or delegates, to the Yearly Meeting, to take them all from among the lay members, or lay brethren?

Considered, to refer this, and all other questions on Yearly Meeting, to the committee of elders, to consider and report thereon.

Art. 11. Can it be considered prudent, or profitable, for members to frequent camp-meetings, or protracted meetings, from time to time?

Unanimously considered, not to be profitable for members so to do.

Art. 12. Can we receive a member into the church, by baptism, without a confession; and if not, what is that confession to be?

Considered, that we can not receive a member into the church, by baptism, without a confession; and, what this is, see Art. 3.



Art. 13. Whether it would be expedient, or not, to bring the question from the Yearly Meeting to each church, and let them consider them, and at the next Yearly Meeting, let the decision of each respective church be made known?

Considered, that it would not be expedient so to do, as it would be the means of accumulating the amount of business.

Art. 14. Is there any other way to receive members into the church, than by baptism, or is it agreeable with the gospel to receive such, that have been baptized with a triune immersion, into other bodies, or churches, to receive them in the church of God, except by re-baptizing them?

Answered under Art. 5.

Art. 15. If a sister marries a man, and gets to know, afterward, that he had already a wife, and she immediately forsakes him, hath she the liberty to get married to another man, while that man is yet living, according to the gospel?

Considered, that we submit the case to her own judgment, and advise her, that she should, in future, be cautious, and take counsel of the church.

Art. 16. About the laying on of hands on deacons,

It was unanimously considered, to postpone the discussion of this subject indefinitely, until there is reason to hope that it may be done calmly, and without prejudice.

Art. 17. With regard to the printing of the minutes of the Yearly Meetings,

It was concluded to have as many printed, as to supply each church with two copies, but that on no condition they should be sold to such as are not members.

Art. 18. Whether we have any authority for liberating a person out of the avoidance, without the person making application?

Considered, that there is, to our knowledge, no such authority in the gospel.

Art. 19. Whether two ordained elders, by the approbation of part of the church, can alter the decision of three ordained elders and all the members present?

Referred to next general council-meeting, in Indiana.

Art. 20. Whether three or more ordained elders have the authority of liberating, out of avoidance, independent of the church?



Considered, that it can not be done properly without the counsel and consent of the church.

Art. 21. Whether it would not be more according to the word in St. John's gospel (13: 15), that a brother should both wash and wipe his brother's feet?

Considered, that the brethren still think as they did seven years ago, in this respect. (See Minutes of 1841, Art. 2.)

Art. 22. Whether a member, agreeably to gospel, can withhold testimony against his or her matrimonial companion, when such testimony is required.

Considered, that such testimony should not be withheld, according to gospel, in a case where it is absolutely necessary (for example, to the conviction and salvation of a fallen member).

Art. 23. Is it proper for members to have their property insured?

Considered, as in Art. 11 of last year.

Art. 24. Is the Lord's Supper observed by the brethren according to the gospel, or, doth the gospel require a supper in holding communion-meetings?

Considered, that we have ample testimony in the gospel to enable us to conclude, that a supper was eaten by the Savior and his disciples, in the same night he instituted the communion. (See Matt. 26: 20; Mark 14: 17, 18; Luke 22: 20; John 13; Jude, verse 12.) And the Apostle Paul, after reproofing the brethren at Corinth for their disorder, in observing the supper, and speaking of it as the Lord's Supper, expressly declares that he had received from the Lord what he had delivered unto them, telling them how to observe it in proper order. 1 Cor. 11: 23-34.

Art. 25. Ought not those queries which stand upon the minutes of 1846, and were considered and decided by the elders in private committee, instead of public counsel, be repealed?

The fact was stated, by impartial witnesses, that the council-meeting was broken up prematurely, on account of the multitude gathering in on Saturday, so that the elders had to adjourn to a private room, in order that they might give, as they were requested, their sense on queries yet on docket. These queries were read, with the answers given before this Yearly Meeting, and all were approved of, almost without a dissenting voice.

Art. 26. Whether it is proper in all cases to ask counsel before giving a letter of recommendation?

Considered, to be best always first to take the counsel of the church.



Art. 27. Whether it is according to the spirit of the gospel, as the 14th query in Minutes of Yearly Meeting, 1841, was laid down in Somerset County, Pennsylvania?

Considered unanimously, that the sentiments then expressed are right, true, and according to gospel.

Art. 28. Whether church-members have a right, according to the gospel, to go to public shows?

Considered, far better for members to avoid all such places.

Art. 29. The committee to whom the letters concerning our Yearly Meetings had been referred, reported as follows: No less than twelve letters, from all parts of the church, had been presented in regard to this important matter, and after reading and weighing them all, and taking also in view the general state of feeling and experience of the present meeting, we propose the following in the fear of the Lord:

Considered, that this Yearly Meeting is as anxious and unanimous in the desire of following in the track of the apostles (Acts 15) as our beloved brethren were eleven years ago, at the Yearly Meeting in 1837. We find, however, by experience, that the change of the time of holding the council after public meeting doth work well—removing from us the great crowd of strangers. We are also satisfied that the sending of delegates or messengers from all the churches is necessary and proper, as also that all the elders, who come to us, ought to be members of the meeting, whether sent or not. A general committee of five or seven elders is to be appointed, as heretofore, and as many special committees as may be deemed proper or necessary in order to dispatch business. But as to voting, we hold that it will be best to aim always at unanimity, and dispose of business as hitherto. Should the meeting not be able to agree on any one point, let it be postponed to a future meeting. In addition it was proposed that all the churches should be admonished to use every diligence in sending, every year, two delegates, or at all events one to the Yearly Meeting. The above was unanimously adopted, without a dissenting voice.

Art. 30. With regard to the call from Indiana for a general council-meeting in that state this next fall,

It was considered, with one accord, that such a meeting shall be held, God willing, at the house of Bro. John Koontz, near Delphi, Carroll County, Indiana, to meet on Saturday evening, September 23—Sunday, the 24th, to be public worship and love-feast, and Monday, the 25th, council-meeting to begin.\*

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\*To the minutes of this year we append the minutes of the general council referred to:

Article 1. Whether a private brother has a right to speak in public



Art. 31. As to our next regular Yearly Meeting, on Pentecost, 1849, there was but one invitation, viz., from our brethren in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

It was therefore agreed, with divine permission, to meet there in Annual Meeting, on Saturday before Pentecost, the 26th of May, 1849.

Having thus far finished the task before us, with singular unanimity and dispatch, and feeling, with deep humility, that not unto us, nay, not unto us, unworthy instruments, but to God and his signal blessing, was due all honor and glory, the brethren united once more in singing a hymn, and bowing themselves in the praises and thanks to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

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meeting? Considered, that, inasmuch as there is a way appointed in the gospel to enter into the ministry, those who feel an inward desire or call to preach, should patiently wait until the church sees fit to appoint them to the public ministry. (See John 10: 1, 2; Heb. 5: 4, 5; Acts 1 etc.)

Art. 2. Whether it is proper, if more than two or three teachers should rise in a common meeting to speak? Considered, that a due sense of order and propriety will teach us how to conduct our meetings so as to edify, not to weary, the congregation. (See 1 Cor. 14: 32, 33, 40.)

Art. 3. How it is considered when a part, say a minority, of a church disowns the other part, or a majority, of the members, without taking a legal or scriptural course, and without giving a legal notice to the body of the church, and not showing or informing the disowned members wherein they transgressed?

[The difficulties in this case occupied the greater part of Monday and Tuesday, and lastly were postponed for deciding until Wednesday morning. See Art. 12.]

Art. 4. How would it be considered, if a man be put in the county prison for safe keeping until court, and a brother goes his security for appearance, and releases him out of prison? Considered that a brother ought not to meddle with such matters without church counsel.

Art. 5. Whether brethren, and especially teachers, can, consistently with the gospel and our holy profession, attach themselves to the Freemasons, and the society popularly called the Sons of Temperance, and if not consistent, how the church is to proceed in such a case? Considered, that, whereas, the Holy Spirit testifies by the Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 11: 29), "He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body;" and, whereas, we are informed in the Holy Writ, that the Lord's body is his church—of which we desire to be members—and he is the head; . . . that from such and other considerations and declarations of the word of God, the brethren have always believed, and do still believe, that it is not only unbecoming and wrong, but highly dangerous, for brethren to attach themselves to such secret societies, or any association of this world, and if they should do so, they should be visited in love (as the advice was forty-four years ago, in a Yearly Meeting at Pipe Creek), and admonished to withdraw themselves from such, and if they should acknowledge their fault before the church, the members might bear with them. But in case of a minister of the Word having gone so far, not only to attach himself to such secret societies, but also to act as their chaplain and orator, it was considered that such a brother ought to be silent in the church, until the members should feel renewed confidence in him again.

Art. 6. What is the sense of the brethren, when two districts are in one neighborhood, and members from other parts move into one district, and wish to hand in their certificate, and to attach themselves to the other district? Considered that it would be best, always, that when districts are laid off, all those in one district ought to belong to it, and those in the other to that.

Art. 7. How it is viewed, when persons, living in one district,



and commending ourselves, and the churches in union with us, to the God of our salvation; fervently praying that he, in tender mercy, would continue to let his light shine upon us; lead us and guide us through all dangers and difficulties, make us useful instruments in his hands for the edification of his church, and to the conversion of a sinful world, and finally save us with an everlasting salvation, through our crucified Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lastly, at the parting meal, Wednesday noon, it was proposed and heartily responded to by all, to recommend every Monday of our future Annual Meetings as a day of general fasting and prayer, not only to the members that may be gathered at the place of meeting, but to all the members in every part of the Lord's vineyard, who yet desire to be faithful, and to see all the household of faith continue steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine,

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request to be baptized and received into church-fellowship in the other district, whether it is proper to receive them without counsel of the district in which they live? Considered, that we deem it advisable, and it has generally been the course of the brethren, in a case where a person made application for baptism in a meeting out of the district in which the applicant lives, to hold council with the members of that church in whose bounds he resides.

Art. 8. How it is considered, if a brother, that is chosen for an office in the church, should move from one church and neighborhood to another, and bring no testimony along—whether he can be received in his office before a testimony arrives? Considered, that, if such a brother moves only a little way, into a church where his standing is generally known, there would be no need of a written testimony; but if a brother should move a considerable distance, it is right and proper to require a testimony before such is received in his office.

Art. 9. Whether brethren can, according to the gospel, use the force of the law and collect money from brethren, and thereby cause considerable costs; and whether brethren, causing such costs, should not at least pay the same? Considered, that the gospel gives no right to use the force of the law against a brother; and as to the other point, in regard to the costs, the church can judge best in each individual case.

Art. 10. What is the proper course for a church to pursue with members that have been disowned by the church, and their office, as teachers in the church, taken from them, and yet, contrary to the counsel of the church, they still go on to hold meetings, and influence innocent members to go contrary to the rules and order of the church? Considered, that such a brother should be still lovingly and faithfully admonished, again and again, to desist from such a course; but if he would, notwithstanding, continue therein, we would have, as a last remedy, to put him in avoidance.

Art. 11. When the church disowns a member, so that it is set back from the salutation of the kiss, and from church fellowship, how is the proper way to do with such members as come from other arms of the church, and, knowing the standing of such disowned members, yet will still hold fellowship with such? Considered, that, inasmuch as the church of Christ is one body, all over the world, and the Word even says, "Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosened in heaven," if one branch of this church disowns a member, members from other branches, knowing this, should hold them equally as disowned.

Art. 12. In regard to the third query, or the difficulties of Bachelor's Run Church with Bros. Oyman and Patton, and others, the brethren in general council considered that there had been committed errors on both sides, in consequence of which many members on both sides made satisfactory acknowledgments before the meeting, and it was concluded, that, with such, all that is past should be forgiven and forgotten, and with as many as may yet come and make satis-



and in fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers, even until he comes, who hath said, "Surely, I come quickly." Amen. Even so come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen.

Signed, in the name of the meeting, and in behalf of the following ordained elders: George Hoke, Joseph Gerber, John Hart, Henry Kurtz, Philip Boyle, Peter Nead, John Kline, ———, James H. Tracey, Michael Moyer, John Metzger, John Molsbaugh, George Shively, Jos. Showalter, Ben. Bowman, John Shoemaker, George Rarigh, John H. Umstad, Jacob Meyer, ———, David Shoemaker, Daniel Miller, John Shively, John Hol-singer.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1849.

Somerset County, Pa.

Article 1. How is it considered, if a brother teacher, who is not ordained, makes appointments far and near, without the counsel of the church?

Considered, that our younger brethren in the ministry, in all cases, should be careful not to appoint meetings or do anything that is beyond their calling, and consequently would offend the church, or the older brethren, not only, but God also.

Art. 2. Is it in accordance with the gospel for a brother to call the meeting to rise upon their feet, after worship is concluded with singing and prayer, and then, with uplifted hands, pronounce a blessing over them?

Concluded, that it should not be.

Art. 3. Can it be allowed for brethren to wear fur or cloth caps, and sisters to wear trimmed-straw or leghorn bonnets?

Considered, to be inconsistent with the Word of God, and therefore it ought not to be.

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faction, and that they all should be received into full fellowship, and Bro. David Fisher in his office as a speaker. Furthermore, this meeting considers and counsels, that Bros. Oyman and Patton, and such others that hold yet with them, should have yet time to reflect, and should they come, also, in a reasonable space of time, and make satisfactory acknowledgment, then the church should also be willing to forgive them; but if they should persist in their contrary course, going on holding meetings in opposition to the church and even become railers of the church, there would be no other way than to put them into full avoidance, according to 1 Cor. 5.

Signed by the following brethren—George Hoke, George Shively, Joseph Showalter, and H. Kurtz of Northeastern Ohio; Joseph Gerber and P. Nead, of Southwestern Ohio; Dan. Cripe, of Elkhart, Indiana; J. Molsbaugh, D. Miller, J. Hart, H. Metzger, J. Metzger, Jac. Brower, etc.



Art. 4. Concerning the holy kiss, how often should it be practiced?

Considered, if we have love for one another we should not dispense with it, especially at our meetings for worship.

Art. 5. Some members think there is too much feasting at our love-feasts, in providing so much for those who come to feast, and make disturbance at our meetings.

Considered, that we are to feed the hungry, if we are led by Christ's example; and the apostle says, "Therefore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." Rom. 12: 20.

Art. 6. Would it not be well to have a committee appointed, at this or some future Annual Meeting, whose duty it should be to collect all the advice of councils, bearing on all points of duty, and put it in the form of a book, and bring it before the council of the following year, for their approbation, and, if approved of, get it printed—so that each member might have a copy, not as a creed, but as advice, and as a testimony of the truth, as we understand it?

Considered, to let this matter lay over.

Art. 6. An objection alleged against the printing of so few of the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting; would it not be expedient to have a greater number printed?

Postponed the consideration of this to another query of like import. (See Art. 43.)

Art. 8. Would it not be right for the brethren, in council at the Annual Meeting, to appoint several brethren that are experienced and sound in the faith, and send them, two and two, with the decisions of the Annual Meeting, and let them visit all the congregations in the United States, and establish them all in the same order, according to example (Acts 15.)?

Considered, to leave this over for further consideration.

Art. 9. What is the duty of a bishop toward his church, and the duty of the church toward the bishop or bishops? In case a bishop commits an error, is it to be overlooked more in him than in another brother in office, or a private member?

Considered, that elders that rule well, should be counted worthy of double honor, and that overseers should not undertake any thing of importance without counsel of the church, and if there should be a general complaint of the church against him, he



is to acknowledge his fault before the church, like another member, and should not be spared; for "if the eye be evil, the whole body shall be full of darkness." Still, it was always the advice of our old brethren, that, in any case where laboring brethren were in a fault, strange and impartial brethren, of experience, should be called to assist in the investigation and justification of the same.

Art. 10. Is it proper for members of the church of Christ to take stock in railroad or similar companies—such as bank stock, etc.?

Considered, as the stock of incorporate companies, only, and not the individual property held by the stockholders, is responsible for debts incurred by the company, and as the business of such companies is often much involved in obscurity, and persons dealing with such companies may be liable to be deceived, brethren had better not engage in such investments.

Art. 11. Is it proper for a member of the church of the Brethren in Christ to commune with other religious societies; and if not considered proper, how shall the church proceed with a member that violates its order?

We consider, that we cannot, consistently with the views we entertain of the gospel order, commune with other societies; and if any of our members should do so, they ought to be tenderly admonished, and given to understand that the brethren cannot hold them in fellowship, if they continue to do so.

Art. 12. Concerning the propriety and necessity of recommendations for members that move from one church to another?

Considered, that the ministers in the various churches should see that none of their members should move away without a recommendation, that no church is bound to receive a member without recommendation, and that the recommendation be signed by not less than two or three witnesses, according to the gospel; that the apostles gave written recommendations. (See Rom. 16: 1, 2; 1 Cor. 16: 10, 11; 2 Cor. 8: 23; Eph. 6: 21, 22; Col. 4: 7-9; 1 Thess. 3: 2, etc.)

Art. 13. When a member offends in a church, and moves away without being reconciled, can he obtain a certificate by writing, without personally presenting himself?

Considered, when a member removes, under such circumstances, and is so far away, or situated unfavorably for coming back to make reconciliation, when he wishes to do so, if the church from which he removed is satisfied with his acknowledgments, made in writing, it may signify this satisfaction in a letter to the church where he resides.

Art. 14. Is the supper, which the brethren eat in connection with the communion, sacred or common?



As there seems to be some reason to believe that the Apostle Paul alludes to the supper, with other means of grace, in the term "ordinances," used (1 Cor. 11: 2), and as we view it as a practice of the apostolic church, to promote the spiritual edification of its members, we consider it a sacred institution, and as such it ought to be observed, especially as it is emphatically called "the Lord's Supper." 1 Cor. 11: 20.

Art. 15. About the still-existing difficulties in Bachelor's Run church, Carroll County, Indiana?

Concluded, in general council, that Peter Nead and Mich. Moyer, of Montgomery County, and Daniel Miller of Preble County, Ohio, with such other brethren as they may see proper to call to their assistance, should be a committee to visit said church, and try once more to settle the difficulties there existing.

Art. 16. Whether each church should not select one brother as a corresponding brother in the church?

Considered, that each church may do as they think proper in this matter.

Art. 17. Whether brethren can be allowed to have their likeness or profile taken?

Considered, as not advisable.

Art. 18. Whether it is advisable to give preachers of other denominations privilege to speak at our regularly appointed meetings?

Considered, it is not advisable.

Art. 19. Should the supper, or part of it, be on the table at the time of feet-washing, or not?

Considered, to leave this matter as hitherto practiced by the brethren.

Art. 20. Whether a laying off of the large church, here in the Glades, into several districts, would not be thought expedient?

Considered, unanimously, that it seems to be necessary and expedient that this church should be laid off into four or five districts, and that a committee of elders should be appointed to visit this church, during the ensuing summer, and assist the brethren in laying off and organizing said districts, and at the same time, also, to visit Indian Creek Church, and settle the difficulties that may exist in both churches. The committee was finally nominated as follows: Peter Long, Andrew Spanogle, and John Holsinger, of Pennsylvania; Joseph Arnold and Jacob Byser, of Virginia, and George Hoke and H. Kurtz, of Ohio.



Art. 21. Is the Lord's Supper a divine or sacred ordinance; and if so, have the children of God a right to invite such as are not members to eat with them at the same table and time?

Considered, to be a divine and sacred ordinance (as all the Lord's ordinances are), and should be eaten by the members only.

Art. 22. Can a brother be allowed to teach singing-schools on Sundays, and take money for the same?

Considered, much as we are in favor of correct singing, we still think it best for a brother not to teach singing-schools.

Art. 23. What should be done with such members, as neglect attending our meetings for six or more months, and when the yearly visit is paid them, they seem or feel satisfied with the church, and when there is a love-feast, they generally attend and commune?

Considered, that the ministering brethren in the church, in which such members are, should earnestly admonish them to adhere to the advice of the Apostle Paul (Heb. 10: 25).

Art. 24. How is it considered, when a brother, who is a deacon of the church, holds and defends the views of Romanists, and other sects?

Considered, that such a brother should be visited by the brethren, and admonished; and if he still persists to hold and defend such views and practices, contrary to the views of the brethren, he could not be continued as a brother.

Art. 25. Whether it would not be agreeable to the gospel, to advise those members, who have been in the church two or three years, and are still conformed to this world, not to come to communion until they deny themselves, and become transformed from the world, after being admonished thereto?

Considered, that conforming to the world presents itself in such various ways, that we cannot erect a standard in regard to it, so as to authorize the church to prohibit such members from partaking of the communion; but such members should be admonished and reproofed by the church, again and again.

Art. 26. When the church deals with a member, or members, and they are not satisfied with the proceedings of the church, whether it is in their, or in the church's place, to write to strange brethren for assistance?

Considered, that the church would have to write, if any strange brethren should be called on.



Art. 27. To how great a degree must a brother sin, and be degraded, before the church can put him in avoidance according to the gospel; and whether all dealings and communications, of a temporal nature, between such an individual and the members of the church, should cease?

Considered, that this subject has been often before the Yearly Meeting, and the views of the brethren then were read. But on the particular points of the present query, we would refer our dear brethren to the Word of God, which is plain, explicit, and sharper than a two-edged sword. Paul, the apostle, says (Rom. 15: 4): "Whatsoever things were written aforetime, were written for our learning;" and he evidently refers, in these words, to the writings of the Old Testament. Now, we find (Lev. 5: 17): "If a soul sin, and commit any of these things, which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the Lord; though he wist it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity, and he shall bring a trespass-offering unto the priest, and it shall be forgiven him." From this we may learn, that when a member has trespassed against God and the truth, even in ignorance, it is his duty to come to the church, and bring his trespass-offering, such as David says (Psalm 51: 17): "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise;" and the church, which, according to 1 Pet. 2: 9, is "a royal priesthood," is to judge, and receive his offering, and forgive him accordingly. Here are the words of Christ himself, duly to be considered: "Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained." John 20: 23, etc. Should, however, such a member, that hath trespassed, be not willing to bring his offering of acknowledgment of his fault, not be willing to hear the church, then we may consider this as a rising, a scab, or bright spot, which, eventually, may turn into moral leprosy (Lev. 13: 2), and in this case the priest (the church) had to shut him up; for, as Paul says (2 Thess. 3: 6): "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly," etc.; and as our Lord taught us (Matt. 18: 17): "If he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican." This withdrawing, or shutting up, from close communion with the church, in the salutation of the kiss, the breaking of bread, and the secret council, is continued until it appears, to the satisfaction of the priest (the church), whether that spot is leprosy or not. Now if, on examination, the priest found that white spot somewhat dark, and that the plague did not spread in the skin, he was to pronounce him clean. So, when a member begins to see and acknowledge his fault, as somewhat dark, he may be reinstated again into full communion. "But when the raw flesh appeareth in him, and the leprosy is thus confirmed [N. B.—He shall not be shut up, for he is unclean], and the leper in whom the plague is, his clothes shall be rent, and his head bare, and he shall put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean; he shall dwell alone, without the camp shall



his habitation be." Lev. 13: 10, 45, 46. So our ancient brethren considered, when the moral leprosy in a member was confirmed by raw works of the flesh, such as are described (1 Cor. 5: 11; Gal. 5: 19-21, etc.), that the direction of the Holy Ghost, by the mouth of the Apostle Paul, was to be strictly and literally obeyed, viz.: "Not to keep company, and with such an one not to eat." Our brethren were well aware of some commentators explaining these words, as if they meant only not to have fellowship with such in spiritual matters, and not to eat with them the bread of communion. But they (our brethren) found it impossible to believe, that the church at Corinth should have continued, in full fellowship, such a person as is described (1 Cor. 5: 1); that they should have still broken the bread of communion with him, etc., even until the apostle reproved them by this epistle. They (the brethren) also thought of the awful words (Rev. 22: 18, 19), and so they adhered simply to the word, as it reads, had no intercourse, no dealings of any kind, with such persons, and did not eat with them at the same table, or out of the same dish, at any common meal, while they were in this state of avoidance. Only acts of charity toward them our brethren did not consider prohibited by the Word of God. And these views we still hold, in communion with our departed brethren.

Art. 28. Whether a brother, who considers himself injured by any public improvement, such as a turnpike, or railroad, passing through his land, can, without a violation of the gospel, make use of the provision of the law, which the Government has enacted for the recovery of damages in such cases?

Considered, as the matter has been fully stated, that it would not be a violation of the gospel to make use of the provisions of the law in such cases.

Art. 29. How is it considered, when a brother solemnizes a marriage contract, between a sister, whose first husband is not known to be dead, and another individual?

Considered, that under such circumstances, a brother ought not to act.

Art. 30. Whether it is advisable for a brother to preach universal redemption publicly; that is, that all men, how vile soever they may have been, shall share alike in the fruition of happiness with the saints.

Considered, that we could not approve, by any means, of such preaching.

Art. 31. How are we to conduct, with colored members, at communions?

Considered, that this ought to be left to the individual churches,



in which such members are, only that these ought not to be debarred from the Lord's table on account of their color.

Art. 32. Is it material what the supper is composed of at communions?

Considered best not to deviate from the order of the old brethren.

Art. 33. Is it safe and proper for the humble followers of Jesus to go to the elections, and take an active part in the political affairs of the country?

Considered, as it was always the advice of the old brethren, and as the anointing (1 John 2: 27) will teach every sincere follower of Jesus, that it would be safest, in regard to political elections, to remain as neutral as possible; and, rather than going to the election, to commit the matter, in prayer, to the care of Him, who setteth up and removeth rulers.

Art. 34. Whether a brother, being elected to the office of constable, contrary to his will, would be justified in taking the obligations of the office, and transfer it to another person, who will discharge the whole duties of said office?

Considered, while the brother would have to be under oath, and responsible for all the acts of his substitute, it would not be safe for him to do so.

Art. 35. Whether it would not be more consistent with the Word, if, at the communion, the administrator would give the bread and cup to the sisters, and they divide it, like the brethren, among themselves, and the administrator to pass along, to keep order?

Considered, unanimously, to go on, in celebrating the communion, as heretofore.

Art. 36. Has a bishop authority to request a deacon, who moved into his church without a letter of recommendation from the church from which he came, to take his place at a meeting for worship, and to preach or exhort?

Considered, that he has no such authority, and the members that move from one church into another, ought always to bring a certificate of their membership and standing.

Art. 37. If a member commits an open fault in the world, has the overseer authority to send brethren to investigate the matter before counseling the church?

Considered, that the overseer has the authority to do so.



Art. 38. Whether our hymn-books, now in use, could not be improved, by a better selection?

Considered, that the hymn-books we have, answer our purpose very well.

Art. 39. Whether it would not be more according to the gospel, in the observance of feet-washing, for the brother, at the head of the table, to wash and wipe the feet of the brother on his right hand, and that brother to wash and wipe the feet of the next, and so on, around the table?

Considered, that as this question has so often been before the council, and that the manner of its observance could not be amended, we are still of the opinion, that the command is fully obeyed, if we wash our feet among one another, as rendered by the German translation; but we would recommend to each brother and sister, at the earliest opportunity, to obey the command to wash, and that in washing, the members should change frequently.

Art. 40. How are we to proceed, if a brother is not willing to be visited by the church, in which he lives, but claims to belong to another?

Considered, that we should always be subject to the church, or district, to which we belong, as those districts are only laid off for convenience, and not to divide the body.

Art. 41. Concerning the propriety, or necessity, of giving meals to the congregation, at common meetings?

Considered, that we leave this matter altogether discretionary to every individual church, or family.

Art. 42. How to prevent the influence of phrenology and mesmerism among the brethren, adverting to the caution of Paul to the church at Colossus (Col. 2: 8): "Beware, lest any man spoil you, through philosophy and vain deceit?"

Considered, that the brethren could, and should, otherwise be better engaged.

Art. 43. Whether each elder, teacher, and visiting brother, should not have the privilege of having a copy of the minutes of the Yearly Meeting?

Considered, that we are in favor for each ministering brother to have a copy, and that they be advised to keep them, if possible, from coming before the world; and we should further recommend, that they should be sent sealed, as we have known them to be opened in postoffices.

Art. 44. Would it not be more consistent with the simplicity



of the gospel not to use the word "delegate," or "representative," in the minutes?

Considered, that as words convey ideas, we should use such as shall best answer that purpose.

Art. 45. Whether it would not be best, at our Annual Meetings, for the committee to investigate the letters on Saturday, in order that the business might be more readily disposed of on Monday?

Considered, that the present arrangement is probably as good as we could adopt.

Art. 46. Where is our next Annual Meeting to be? Invitations were sent from Montgomery County, Ohio, for the Yearly Meeting in 1850, and from Virginia, and Aughwick, Pennsylvania, for the Yearly Meeting in 1851; and it was

Concluded, that our next Annual Meeting should take place, God willing, on Pentecost, 1850, at Bear Creek, Montgomery County, Ohio, and that our brethren in Virginia are considered to have the first claim for the year following, if the invitation be repeated.

Signed, in the name of the meeting, by (order of) the following ordained elders: Geo. Hoke, J. Showalter, Henry Kurtz, Peter Nead, A. Spanogle, J. Molsbaugh, Peter Long, John Kline, Jacob Sayler, Samuel Wampler, Peter Kober, Jacob Meyer, Daniel Yundt, George Shafer, Joh. Holsinger, Jac. Stutzman, D. Shoemaker, Jos. Arnold, Thos. Clarke.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1850.

Bear Creek, Montgomery County, Ohio.

After the public exercises were concluded, the brethren met in general council, which was opened, as usual, with singing, exhortation, and prayer, and the following queries were submitted for consideration, and decided, as follows:

Article 1. A request that counsel be given to the church on Eel River, Indiana, in order that the difficulties there existing might be settled.

Concluded, that inasmuch as the said church is in an unreconciled state toward one another, this meeting doth appoint Brethren Peter Nead, David Bowman, jun., Daniel Miller, and Abr. Ehrbaugh, of Ohio, and Jacob Miller, James H. Tracey, and David Hardman, of Indiana, as a committee, to visit said church, and assist in settling the existing difficulties.



Art. 2. How is it considered, inasmuch as our beloved brother, Henry Kurtz, is not present at this meeting, for to appoint a committee, to have the minutes of this meeting printed, and to receive all moneys appropriated to defray the expenses of printing?

It has been agreed upon, by this meeting, that Bro. Benjamin Bowman, of Virginia, Daniel Summer, of Ohio, and David Hardman, of Indiana, be this committee.

Art. 3. The number of papers handed to the committee of elders, amounted to fifty-five, which were distributed among twelve committees, to investigate them, and report thereon.

The first committee, consisting of Brethren George Butterbaugh, John Myer, John Bower, Joseph Hardman, and Jacob Funderburg, reported as follows:

Art. 4. How it is considered, if a sister marries an unbelieving husband, who afterward doth ill-treat her, by slander and debauchery, and, in many ways, abuses and grieves her, so as to forbid and prohibit her going to meeting, or to any of her friends and relations; she then, upon the advice of her friends (members of the church), leaves him, and tries to get rid of him by law, upon which he offers to give himself up to the church, and is willing to do what the church lays upon him, acknowledgeth that he has done wickedly, and promises to do better; but he having made such promises before, and did not come up to them, the friends of the sister do not think it proper for her to unite with him again?

Considered, that we could not advise the sister to leave her husband; but if she did so, she ought to remain unmarried, according to Paul's writing to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 7: 11-13).

Art. 5. Whether it is right for brethren, in different arms of the church, to go against the counsel of the Yearly Meeting?

Considered, that it is wrong for brethren to go against the counsel of our great Annual Meetings. But should brethren not be satisfied with said counsel, they have liberty, with the consent of their church, to bring the matter before another Yearly Meeting, for a reconsideration.

Art. 6. A request that the regular order of choosing teachers among the brethren, should be entered at large on the minutes of this Yearly Meeting, so as to counteract wrong impressions, derived from certain publications.

Referred to the next Annual Meeting.

The second committee, consisting of Brethren Jacob Miller, Christian Arnold, Leo. Blickensterfer, Abraham Frantz, and Em. Beeghley, reported as follows:



Art. 7. Is a brother, being a full member in the church, allowed to purchase cattle, and other animals, and follow butchering, hire, or rent, a stall in a market-house, and attend market, as a butcher, every market morning?

Considered, that a brother engaged in butchering, in the manner stated in the question, is surrounded with many difficulties and temptations, and that we would advise brethren not to do so.

Art. 8. If a brother, or sister, commit a gross crime, such as getting drunk, etc., can it be settled, by any visiting brethren, without bringing it before the church, or what course is to be pursued in such cases?

Considered, that a brother, or sister, guilty of a crime, as set forth in the question, should be brought before the church, agreeable to Paul's first letter to Timothy (chap. v. 20): "Them that sin, rebuke before all, that others, also, may fear."

Art. 9. Is it allowed for a brother to fulfill a worldly office, especially one that holds an office in the church; and if not, what is the proper course to proceed with such a brother?

Considered, that we could not advise brethren to crave worldly offices; but if the people of the world should impose an office on any of our brethren, they should, before acting in such office, lay the matter before the church, and act agreeable to the counsel of the same.

Art. 10. Whether we can hold, as members, man and wife, that live together in strife, that have been parted on that account, and now live together, but not as man and wife should?

Considered, that we could not hold such as members.

The third committee, consisting of Brethren Geo. Hoover, Thomas Clark, Ab. Maas, Jacob Garver, Isaac Lawshe and John P. Ebersole, reported as follows:

Art. 11. Request of next Annual Meeting to be held with our brethren, in Augusta County, Virginia.

Agreed upon. (See at the end.)

Art. 12. How it is considered, when a man leaves his wife, and then marries an excluded sister, and afterward moves a considerable distance, where their standing is not generally known; there he makes application to be received into the church, asserting that his first wife had committed fornication, without any other testimony but his own; then a letter is written to the church, where the sister was excluded, for counsel, which is answered, ad-



vising to admonish her to love the church, until the Lord may bring about a way for her reception, stating, also, that they could frankly forgive her what she had been excluded for; the letter further stating, that there was a report that her husband's first wife was dead, and another, that she was not. Finally, he was baptized, and she received again, as a sister, without testimony, by the voice of one minister and twenty-one private members, in favor, and one minister, with three private members, opposed to their reception?

Considered, that such persons should not be received into the church, under such circumstances, and that the brethren, who received them, have erred, and should make acknowledgments before the church, in order to the reconciliation of those brethren, who have been grieved at their proceedings.

Art. 13. Whether brethren, being requested, should visit and pray for persons living in a state of adultery?

Considered, that they should be visited, instructed, and admonished, and as they manifest fruits of repentance, or not, pray for them, according to their state.

Art. 14. Whether the eighth query of last year's Annual Meeting was not fully decided in the eighth query of the Annual Meeting of 1848, which, if carried out, would fully answer the purpose?

Referred to next Annual Meeting.

The fourth committee, consisting of Brethren James Kelso, John Metzger, Dan. Miller, on Four-Mile, Phil. Rothenberger, and David Studybecker, reported as follows:

Art. 15. Whether it is according to the gospel for a church to lay a public acknowledgment on a brother that has made a public offense?

Considered, that the acknowledgment is to be made before the church alone, and before all the members present. (See 1 Tim. 5: 20): "Them that sin rebuke before all that others, also, may fear."

Art. 16. What is the duty of a minister, when called upon to solemnize marriage, when one of the parties is the child of members, and these parents not consenting to the match, yet the minister knows of no other objection but the daughter's going from home to get married?

Considered, as not advisable without the consent of the parents. Paul says, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Rom. 12: 18; Heb. 12: 14.

Art. 17. How it is considered, when a sister has an unbelieving



husband, who gets drunk and abuses her, and tempts to kill her with an ax; she then leaves him and returns to her father, who then goes to the housekeeper in the church for advice, upon whose advice a bill of divorce is obtained?

Considered, that a housekeeper has no right to give such advice, without counseling the church, neither has the sister a right to get divorced without such counsel. (See Matt. 19: 6-9; 1 Cor. 7: 11.)

The fifth committee, consisting of Brethren John Letherman, Thomas Major, Isaac Hartzock, Henry Neff, and Jacob Ebersole, reported as follows:

Art. 18. Would it not be more in accordance with Holy Writ, and the consistent manner of a plain people, to use the plain language, especially calling the days and months by their number?

Considered nearer the gospel to use plain language.

Art. 19. Whether it would be agreeable to the order of the church, where there is a bishop and two or more teaching brethren in one arm of the church, to elect a bishop without the consent of the church?

Considered, necessary, by all means, to have the voice of the church in such cases.

Art. 20. If a member commits a fault, whether the church has the power, according to the gospel, to put that member in avoidance without the assistance of another church?

Considered, that, if there is a bishop in that church, they have the power in the case of a private member.

Art. 21. Whether there is any danger to be apprehended from publishing a paper among us?

This subject to lay over till next Annual Meeting.

The tenth committee, consisting of Brethren David Miller, Abraham Erbaugh, Jacob Wine, Daniel Nare, and Peter Showalter, reported as follows:

Art. 22. Whether the committees could not be selected and the questions taken in, at our Annual Meetings, on Saturday, as well as on Monday?

Considered, to leave it as it is at present.

Art. 23. If a woman leaves her husband for his extreme cruelty, and he obtains a bill of divorce and marries another wom-



an, and his first wife afterward marries another man, both being unbelievers, can such persons be received into the church of Christ, according to the gospel?

Considered, that we could not receive such, according to the gospel. Rom. 7: 1-3; 1 Cor. 7: 10, 11, 39.

The sixth committee, consisting of Brethren John Frantz, George Studybecker, John Hunsicker, Benjamin Byerly, and Christian Long, reported as follows:

Art. 24. Can a member that is cut off, and kept in avoidance, be afterward released again from the bonds of excommunication, without acknowledging the fault, or without coming and requesting to be released; and in case members are released without confessing their fault, or desiring to be released, how shall other members conduct themselves toward them?

Considered, that, where a member has committed one of those faults mentioned by the Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 5), and has been put in avoidance, the church having sufficient evidence that he has ceased from those evils, and by his earnest request, he may be released out of the bonds of avoidance.

Art. 25. There is a body of people, or brethren, in the far West, whose doctrine and practice is somewhat different from ours. Some of our brethren live near, or almost among them. Now, the question arises, are the brethren privileged, according to the gospel, to hold communion with them, under existing circumstances?

Considered, that, according to the gospel, and the constant practice of the church, it would not be advisable for brethren to commune with them, until a union is effected, and they are agreed to practice according to the ancient order of the church. 1 Cor. 4: 17.

Art. 26. Why the Annual Meeting was not conducted, or carried out, according to the order or plan laid down at the Yearly Meeting, 1847?

Considered, that the querists shall be referred to the Minutes of Yearly Meeting, 1848, Art. 29, where twelve letters are mentioned, which contained chiefly remonstrances against said plan.

Art. 27. About the laying on of hands, on deacons, when installed into office?

Considered, that the brethren, after a long continued and attentive investigation of the Word of God, on this agitating subject in question, have come to the following conclusion:

Whereas, it is plain, from the acts and proceedings of the apostles, that there must have been deacons in those days, and



that these deacons must have been active in their office, before the seven teachers or evangelists were chosen and installed into their office (See Acts 2: 45, and 4: 35): "Distribution was made unto every man, according as he had need"—from which we conclude, if distributions were made to every man, there must, of course, have been those that made them; hence, it is the opinion of the brethren, in this council assembled, that these seven chosen and set before the apostles (Acts 6: 6) were selected from among, as we might say, the first class of teachers (See Acts 6: 3, 8; 8: 6, 7, 36-38; 21: 8), and hands laid on them by the apostles, to establish them, to settle the difficulty that had risen among the deacons about the daily ministrations, and that the seven were not deacons in the restricted sense of the word, and were never called such—the word deacon never once occurring in the whole book of Acts.\* Therefore, the laying on of hands ought to be practiced on such old teachers that are set apart, and deacons ought to be received into their office by hand and kiss, as the practice has been hitherto with the brethren. The English version contains the word deacon twice more (1 Tim. 3: 10, 13), but the Greek original has not the same word, and the German translation is more correct in these two instances, saying, literally (verse 10), "Then let them serve, being found faithful;" (verse 13), "For they that serve well, purchase to themselves a good degree," etc.

The seventh committee, consisting of Brethren Abraham Miller, Joseph Harter, David Mishler, Henry Bear, and Moses Shoup, reported as follows:

Art. 28. How is it considered, when a district or church do not observe the ancient order of the brethren, and have new orders among them?

Concluded, that no district church has any right to make changes in any thing whatsoever, contrary to the ancient order, without proper investigation before, and the general consent of, the Annual Meeting.

Art. 29. Is a member, brother or sister, not as justifiable in buying lottery tickets as in purchasing bank stock, or taking eight or ten per cent interest on money loaned to a brother?

Considered, that buying lottery tickets is very wrong; taking more than lawful interest is worse still, and taking stock in a bank ought to be avoided, also, by brethren. (One wrong can never justify another.)

The eighth committee, consisting of Brethren David Ulrey, John Molsbaugh, Elias Dickey, Philip Wampler, and D. Summer, reported as follows:

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\* The word deacon (Greek diakonos) occurs about thirty times in the New Testament, and is rendered in the common English version twenty times minister, seven times servant, and only three times deacon. (See Matt. 20: 26; 22: 13; 23, 11; Mark 9: 35; 10: 43; John 2: 5, 9; 12: 26; Rom. 13: 4 (twice); 15: 1; 1 Cor. 3: 6; 6: 4; 11: 15 (twice), and 23; Gal. 2: 17; Eph. 3: 7; 6: 21; Phil. 1: 1; Col. 1: 7; 1 Thess. 3: 2; 1 Tim. 3: 8, 12; 4: 6.



Art. 30. Who are the proper persons in the church to administer the ordinance recorded by James (v. 14)?

Considered, the bishops, or ordained elders.

Art. 31. Is there any second order in the church, who may administer the above ordinance in cases of great and pressing necessity, when the proper administrators cannot be had in time for the urgency of the case?

Considered, in such case, brethren in less office, if at least one of them is authorized to baptize, might serve.

Art. 32. May the above ordinances be administered to a person who is not a member of the church, although solemnly believing in the healing virtues of the above, both spiritually and bodily, and requesting the church; such person being in a dangerous situation, having shown fruits of repentance, and perfect willingness, if spared, to bow under the order of the church?

Considered, that it could not be done, but that we are to direct them to the grace and mercy of God.

The ninth committee, consisting of Brethren Daniel Miller, of Ohio, Philip Ramer, Martin Miller, John Pfoutz, and John Eller, reported as follows:

Art. 33. Whether members, who have been put in avoidance, can be released without their request?

Considered, that they cannot.

Art. 34. Would it not be better, and more correspondent with the gospel, if the brethren would hold the Lord's Supper more in unison with each other; for it appears that some have bread and cheese, and some have meat and soup, etc.?

Considered, that uniformity would be better.

Art. 35. If a brother transgress, so as to be deemed guilty of avoidance, should he not be cited to appear before the church, in the presence of the witnesses, to hear the testimony given?

Considered, that he ought to be particularly requested to attend.

Art. 36. In case such member be found guilty, by whom should he be informed?

Concluded, that this is a duty incumbent on the ordained brethren.

Art. 37. If it is proven, by two or three brethren, that a



brother has been drinking to excess, yet not so much as to disable him from keeping on his feet, but has often before been charged, and also before been set back or put in avoidance, and still denies the charge, would he not come under the class of drunkards, or would it be prudent to hold him as a brother, or should he be expelled by the proof of four or five witnesses, though not members of the church?

Considered, that no member should be put in avoidance without positive proof, from members, that he or she has been guilty of one of those sins mentioned by Paul (1 Cor. 5: 11).

Art. 38. Have we sufficient right, according to the gospel, to put a man in avoidance who has already been put back from the kiss, the communion, and the council, and disowned as a brother?

Considered, that the church has the power to do so.

The eleventh committee, consisting of Brethren Daniel Jordan, Abraham Witmer, Jacob Metzger, Abraham Flory, and John Roberts, reported as follows:

Art. 39. How is it considered, when there is a regular meeting in rotation in a district, and a meeting is requested by people who are yet without the church, regularly every four or six weeks?

Considered, that a meeting may be held at the house of any one that is friendly to the Brethren, on his request, if not interfering with other appointments.

Art. 40. Whether an ordained brother, who had been once in avoidance, can be restored again to his full office?

Considered, that a brother can be restored again to his full office by the voice of the church (as in a choice).

Art. 41. A request for a committee to be appointed and sent to investigate a difficulty existing in the Mansfield congregation.

Considered, that this meeting sees fit to nominate Brethren John Frantz, Daniel Jordan, John Molsbaugh, and John Shoemaker, as the committee for that purpose.

The twelfth committee, consisting of Brethren John Shively, Michel Myer, Chr. Wise, Rudolph Mohler, and Jacob Studybecker, report as follows:

Art. 42. Is it consistent with the gospel for the brethren to recommend to the churches a day of fasting, to be observed annually, and to have it published in the Minutes of the Annual Meeting?



Considered, inasmuch as the gospel teaches us to fast and pray, to always pray, and never faint; and the Great Teacher says, a certain species of evil spirits cannot be cast out but by fasting and prayer, we hope that every Christian shepherd will teach his flock to pray and fast oftener than once a year, as we do not know the time when he that goeth about as a roaring lion may tempt or deceive us.

Art. 43. Why is it, that on our yearly visits, we ask the husband of a sister, who himself is not a member of the church, if he knows anything against any member; yet we are not to receive his evidence in council against a member?

Considered, that it is true, what Paul says, "What have I to do with those out of the church?" yet this does not prevent us from that which is no more than an act of courtesy toward the husband of a beloved sister in the Lord. (See Phil. 4: 8.)

Art. 44.\* A request from the brethren in northern Indiana for the Annual Meeting of 1852.

Considered, to be left for decision of next Annual Meeting.

In conclusion, it is to be repeated, that our next Annual Meeting will be, God willing, at the Brick meetinghouse, near New Hope, Augusta County, Virginia, to begin on Saturday before Pentecost, A. D. 1851. Addresses to be made, if necessary, to Bro. John Gerber, New Hope, or Bro. Peter Miller, Mount Sidney, all in Augusta County, Virginia.

The business of this meeting being disposed of, a song of praise was sung, and the meeting closed, as usual, with prayer.

Signed by the following elders:

The general committee—George Hoke, Peter Nead, James Tracey, Samuel Gerber, Joseph Gerber, John Brower, Benj. Bowman, Daniel Yundt, Dan. Bernhard.

Others elders—Jacob Miller, of St. Joseph, Geo. Hoover, David Hardman, John Myer, J. Leatherman, John Shively, Henry Neff, John Hart, Joseph Harter, David Miller, of St. Joseph.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1851.

New Hope, Augusta County, Va.

Friday evening the traveling brethren arrived in the neighborhood, and on Saturday morning public worship began, and was continued until Sunday afternoon, under a great press of the people. On Monday and Tuesday the business of the council meeting was taken in hand, and gone through. The chief points, which occurred, were as follows:

Article 1. A letter from East Tennessee, Knob Creek church, concerning a confusion and division in that church.



Concluded, that a committee should be appointed by the Yearly Meeting, to go to East Tennessee, to assist the brethren there in adjusting their difficulties; and that this committee, and others of the same character, should be appointed by the general committee.

The following brethren were appointed for this business, viz.: Benj. Bowman, John Hershberger, John Kline, and Daniel Brower, all of Rockingham, and Benj. Moomaw, of Roanoke, Virginia.

Art. 2. A query, whether it is right to burden brethren with paying postage, for letters sent by mail, they being not interested in the same?

Considered, that brethren should pay postage in advance, when sending letters to get information for their own benefit, in all cases.

Art. 3. A query, whether it is right for brethren to dismiss the congregation, by pronouncing a blessing over the people?

Considered, that inasmuch as we have neither command, nor example, from our great High Priest and his apostles, of pronouncing a blessing upon the people, and inasmuch as preachers are as needy of blessings as their hearers, for which we ask in our prayers, after sermon, we would deem it more unassuming, and more agreeable to humility, to follow the footsteps of our ancient brethren, as they followed Christ.

Art. 4. A request from the brethren in Shelby County, Ohio, for a committee to examine into the proceedings of the Logan church in a case of excommunication.

Concluded, that Brethren George Shively and Joseph Showalter, of Stark, John Molsbaugh, of Knox, John Shoemaker, of Mobergan, and Jacob Kurtz, of Wayne County, be a committee to visit said churches in Logan and Shelby.

Art. 5. A letter about the difficulties in Salomony Church, Indiana.

Concluded, that Brethren John Miller, of Elkhart, Henry Neff, of Turkey Creek, Dav. Shoemaker, of Huntingdon, Nichol. Frantz, of Eel River, Abraham Moss and John Bowman, of Wayne County, be a committee to visit said church.

Art. 6. A query concerning the ordaining of elders.

Considered, that the ordination of elders is of the utmost importance to the church, and should always be under the special guidance of the Holy Spirit, who will teach and remind a church of the right person and the proper time for ordination; that there should be a full union of the church, and the elders present, on the



subject; and that where there is any serious objection, according to the word of God (see 1 Tim. 3: 1-7; Titus 1: 7), the elders and the church should be cautious to proceed, if the objection could not be removed.

Art. 7. Should brethren have the privilege to put up lightning-rods?

Considered, that we would not advise brethren to do so; nor would we say to those who have them, to take them down; but advise all our dear brethren to bear with each other in such matters, and try to put their chief trust in God.

Art. 8. What is the opinion of the Yearly Meeting, with regard to having a paper published, under the title, "The Monthly Gospel Visitor"?

Considered, at this council, that we will not forbid Bro. Henry Kurtz to go on with the paper for one year; and that all the brethren or churches will impartially examine the "Gospel Visitor," and if found wrong, or injurious, let them send in their objection at the next Annual Meeting.

Art. 9. Would it not be better to alter the plan of holding our Annual Meeting, so as to have no public preaching, but only a church council meeting?

Considered, that at this time we would make no more alteration but this, that instead of meeting on Friday, and having public meeting on Saturday and Sunday, we will come together on Saturday evening, and meeting to commence on Sunday morning, and to be no communion meeting at the place of the Annual Meeting; the council meeting then to commence on Tuesday morning.

Art. 10. Would it not be proper to reconsider the forty-second query of 1850, or was it correctly answered?

Considered correctly answered.

Art. 11. An appeal to this Yearly Meeting, from White Oak church, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to appoint a committee to investigate, and, if possible, to settle the difficulties existing there.

Considered, to grant the request, and to appoint Brethren Andrew Spanogle, Peter Long, and Samuel Lehman, of Pennsylvania, and Philip Boyle and Daniel P. Saylor, of Maryland, to be the committee.

Art. 12. Whether it is according to the gospel for brethren to administer the communion to a sick or disabled member, in the daytime, and without celebrating the other ordinances connected with it?



Considered, not to be according to the gospel.

Art. 13. A complaint from Sister Brand, of Frederick County, Virginia.

Considered, that Brethren Benj. Bowman, Peter Miller, John Wine, Samuel Wampler, and Jacob Biser, be a committee to visit the church, in which the sister and members concerned live, and investigate the matter.

Art. 14. Whether it would be contrary to our profession, and the doctrine of Christ, to make contributions to, or become members of, the American Colonization Society, with the view of the furtherance of the liberty of the African race?

Considered, that a person may contribute to the society, but not become a member.

Art. 15. How is it considered, for brethren to appoint meetings for prayer exclusively?

Considered, that the brethren cannot recommend such meetings, as a general thing, except in cases of peril; but, on the other hand, they consider it a duty and privilege to pray in our families, and in the closet, and other secret places, as well as to join the public prayer in our regular meetings for worship.

Art. 16. How is it considered for brethren, that hold prayer-meetings, and invite others, that are of a different belief, to take part in prayer, and call them brethren?

Considered utterly wrong for brethren to do so.

Art. 17. Whether the form of words used in the ordinance of baptism, as laid down at the Annual Meeting, A. D. 1848, could not be reconsidered?

Considered, to leave it as the minutes of 1848 have it.

Art. 18. Would it not be advisable for the brethren, assembled in Annual Meeting, to establish certain well-established, ordained elders, and send them, two by two, to visit certain districts appointed to them, etc.?

The decision to lay over till next year.

Art. 19. How are the brethren, when called upon, to proceed in holding funeral services?

Considered, that according to the general and ancient practice of the brethren, we would advise, that, in all cases, the services should be begun and concluded by singing and prayer.



Art. 20. Whether it is according to the gospel, to let any of our poor members go to the county poor-house?

Considered, that we know of no passage in the gospel authorizing this, but of many, where the duty of the church is expressly enjoined, to support their poor members, and, if not able, to ask aid from neighboring churches.

Art. 21. Whether a minister, or any other member, has a right, according to Paul's treating on self-examination, after being seated at the communion-table, to order from the table any brother or sister; or whether Paul's sentiment is to leave the member, or members, until after the communion, and then take them into the council of the church?

Considered, inasmuch as the Apostle Paul writes (1 Cor. 11: 29): "He that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself," we think that no member should be permitted to remain at the communion-table, when he, or she, is known, to a member of the church, to have been guilty of a violation of the order of the house of God.

Art. 22. How do the brethren, in general, pass the kiss at the communion-table? Is it to the brother who sits at the administrator's right or left?

Considered, that we see no difference; but leave it to the administrator, as he sees proper, or as circumstances will admit.

Art. 23. Is it right for our teachers to enter up into pulpits, in other denominations' meeting-houses, and teach there?

Considered, that brethren should give no offense, neither to Jew nor Gentile, nor to the church of Christ; but we would advise brethren not to go up, when they can avoid it, as the brethren had considered once before.

Art. 24. With regard to the twenty-eighth query, in 1849, a more definite answer is required, how far a brother may go, in order to recover indemnification for losses sustained from a railroad, turnpike, and the like, passing through his land.

Considered, that we might use the provision of the law; that is, petition the court for what it will make, as damages, but should use no violence, by putting the law in force for a recompense.

Art. 25. How shall the brethren at Beaver Dam, Maryland, proceed with the money willed by Bro. John Gerber, deceased, to be distributed among the various churches that have need in the different states?



It is the advice of the assembled brethren, that Bro. Daniel P. Sayler (his address is Middleburg, Carroll County, Maryland) be appointed a general corresponding agent, George Hoke and John P. Ebersole, agents for the north part, and Peter Nead and John Brower, for the south part of Ohio; Abraham Moss for the south, and Jacob Miller, of St. Joseph, for the north part of Indiana; Joseph Emmert for Illinois, and adjacent states; Benj. Bowman for the north, and Abraham Neff for the south parts of Virginia, Carolina, and Tennessee; Jac. Meyer, of Somerset, for western Pennsylvania; Andrew Spanogle for the part of Pennsylvania, east of the Alleghany and west of Susquehanna; and Christ. Langenecker, for Pennsylvania, east of Susquehanna and New Jersey, to report to Daniel P. Sayler, as soon as convenient, the number of churches, and where situated, who are the elders of them, and where there is help necessary. It is further our advice that the above brethren shall report to the committee of the Annual Meeting, every year, how much of said money, and where it was distributed.

Finally, with regard to the next Annual Meeting, there was but one invitation from our brethren in northern Indiana, for the meeting in 1852, and two invitations for that in 1853—one from our brethren on Beaver Dam, and the other from our brethren in Washington County, all in Maryland; and it was concluded, that our next Yearly Meeting, on Pentecost, 1852, should be, God willing, in Turkey Creek church, at the place of Jonathan Weiland, five miles south of Goshen, Elkhart County, Indiana. Letters on the subject to be addressed to Jacob Miller, or James Tracey, South Bend, Indiana, or to John Miller and Henry Neff, Goshen, Indiana. Also, concluded, that the Yearly Meeting, in 1853, should be at the Beaver Dam meeting-house, Frederick County, Maryland. Letters to be addressed to Jacob Sayler, Johnsville, Frederick County, or Daniel P. Saylor, Middleburg, Carroll County, Maryland.

In conclusion, all united in praises to God for the signal blessings, and especially for the harmony and love, which prevailed throughout the whole meeting.

Signed, in behalf of the meeting, by the committee of elders—George Hoke, John Bowman, John Letherman, Christian Longenecker, John Kline, D. P. Sayler, Dan. Brower, Jam. H. Tracey, Jacob Meyer, Henry Kurtz.

First committee—Daniel Yundt, Christ. Wenger, Mich. Petry, John P. Ebersole, Abr. Flory, L. Furrey.

Second Committee—Peter Nead, Dan. Hollinger, James Tabler, Adam Brown, Jacob Tomer, John Wine.

Third Committee—John Wine, Jacob Sommers, John Brubacher, Benj. Byerly, John Deardorff, John Ogg.

Fourth Committee—John Hershberger, Benj. Moomaw, David Bock, Jacob Miller, of Logan, Jacob Miller, of Rockingham, Jacob Guth.

Fifth Committee—Peter Nininger, John Garber, David Brandt, Abr. Grabill, Mich. Emmert, Daniel Senger, Dan. Brower, of Ohio.

Sixth Committee—Abraham Neff, Peter Miller, Christ. Wise, Thomas Clark, jun., David Rothrock, Jacob Brubacher.

Seventh Committee—Abraham Maas, Benj. Bowman, Jac.



Biser, Jacob Ebersole, Jacob Wine, Will. George.

Eighth Committee—Jacob Miller, of Portage, Thomas Clark, sen., David Rinehart, Abraham Knopp, Jacob Heman, David Beeghly, Isaac Miller.

Ninth Committee—John Miller, of Elkhart, George Schafer, George Bear, Daniel Keller, Jac. Mehring, Martin Gerber.

Tenth Committee—John Molsbaugh, James Kelso, Jac. Brower, Christ. Rupp, Will. Angle, David Kline.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1852.

Turkey Creek, Elkhart County, Ind.

According to appointment of last year, the brethren began to assemble on Saturday, and on account of quite a large congregation being collected, public worship was commenced that afternoon, and continued on Sunday from 9 o'clock in the morning till late in the afternoon. On Monday morning, before public worship, the Yearly Meeting was organized by a general committee being chosen, which then retired and received the papers sent in, while public worship was continued. Monday evening the papers were distributed among eleven committees, and on Tuesday morning, the 1st of June, the general council commenced, as usual, with singing, exhortation, and prayer. The following points came up at this time for consideration, in the fear of God:

Article 1. Proceedings of a council-meeting, held November 22, 1851, in Adams County, Illinois, by the brethren known as Western Brethren, with propositions for a reunion with the body of our brotherhood, represented in this meeting.

After the differences having been stated, and considerable conversation had on the subject, it was finally concluded, that this meeting does not feel satisfied how a full and true union can be obtained on the propositions made by the Western Brethren, and that therefore this matter should be postponed until the dear brethren in the West become better acquainted still with the grounds of our practice; and meanwhile we should exercise charity and Christian love toward them.

Art. 2. A letter from Jefferson County, Iowa, referring to the differences existing between the brethren, called the Western brethren, and those of our brethren settled around and among them, from the East, and wishing to be guided in their intercourse with them by the counsel of this meeting.

Considered, as answered by the foregoing decision.

Art. 3. Have we a right to help make the political government,



and to serve as officers, also, to put the law in force against any of our fellow-men, in any case whatever?

Considered, that the brethren should be careful, and not betray their profession in helping to make and serve the civil government, and, if they give in their vote, they should do it in a quiet and peaceable manner, without taking part in electioneering, and return immediately from the ground; that brethren should hold no office under the civil government that would cause them to betray their faith; and as respects using the law against our fellow creatures, brethren should use lenity and Christian forbearance toward our fellow-men, and not compel them by the law, unless prompted so to do by stern necessity. But before so doing they should always take the counsel of the church.

Art. 4. In regard to the continuation of the "Gospel Visitor."

It was concluded, that inasmuch as there is a diversity of opinion upon the subject—some in favor, and others opposed—we cannot forbid its publication at this time, and hope those brethren opposed to it will exercise forbearance, and let it stand or fall, on its own merits.

Art. 5. Respecting the publication of the names of the special committees in the minutes.

It was considered advisable not to insert so many names.

Art. 6. Whether it would not be advisable to read the proceedings of the meeting at the conclusion of the same meeting?

Considered, unnecessary, inasmuch as they are read again and again, one by one. But that the elders of each district should procure a copy of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting, and have the same read before their respective churches, and preserve the same for reference.

Art. 7. With regard to sending traveling brethren, according to Art. 18 of last year's minutes.

It was concluded, that every church, and even members, have the privilege to call on the Yearly Meeting, or otherwise, for brethren to visit them.

Art. 8. Whether the commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Matt. 28: 19, 20; Mark 16: 15) does not require of the church to send brethren to preach the gospel, where the name of Christ is not known?

Considered, that the brethren acknowledge the great commission of Christ to its full extent, and that it is the duty of the church, the ministers, and every private member, to do all that is in their power to fulfill that commission in accordance with apostolic practice.



Art. 9. What is the duty of a bishop, who has the oversight of an adjoining congregation, in which there is no householder, and only one speaker, and has that church liberty to call elders, and have a bishop or speaker appointed?

Considered, that it is the duty of a bishop to attend to the necessities of such church, and if he neglects his duty, such church, if unanimous, may call other elders to assist them.

Art. 10. Has a brother, who is a speaker, a right to go to so-called spiritual rappings, and ask such questions as these: "Are the ordinances of the gospel essential to salvation?" "Are certain deceased relatives happy?" etc., and to invite the so-called medium into his neighborhood, who thereupon calls at such brother's house, and neighbors, and also members, attend there, asking and receiving information from such medium? How is such a brother to be dealt with, according to the gospel?

Considered, that such rappings are a lying wonder and delusion, and that these things have been strongly forbidden, both in the Old and New Testament, as the works of the devil. (See Deut. 18: 9-16; Lev. 19: 31; 20: 6, 27; Isa. 8: 19, 20; Acts 16: 16-18; Luke 11: 14; 2 Thess. 2: 9-11; Rev. 13: 13.) And where any brother goes so far as stated above, he should be admonished, and ought to make satisfactory acknowledgments to the church, and all the members should be earnestly admonished to have nothing to do with it, and totally to debar it from among them.

Art. 11. Has a brother a right to have or keep in his house costly musical instruments?

Considered, that members could lay out their money to a better advantage.

Art. 12. How is it considered by the brethren, if brethren aid and assist in building great houses for high schools, and send their children to the same?

Considered, that brethren should be very cautious and not mind high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Rom. 12: 16.

Art. 13. How is it considered, for a laboring brother in the gospel, to attend to store-keeping, or for brethren to sell their farms and go in for store-keeping?

Considered, that brethren should not do so, and least of all, the laboring brethren.

Art. 14. How is it considered, when brethren do any kind of servile work on the Sabbath or Lord's day?



Considered, that brethren should by no means do any servile work on the Christian Sabbath day, nor engage in sporting, such as fishing, hunting, etc. And in case members will do so, they should be visited in the name of the church, and heartily admonished to do so no more, and if they should persist in so doing, they should be dealt with as offenders. (That necessary labors, such as feeding and watering creatures, preparing food for the family, and the like, form an exception, is obvious.)

Art. 15. The committee appointed last year to visit Salamony Church, in this state (Indiana), in order to settle the difficulties there, reported that they could not yet accomplish the object of their appointment, but that there was now a prospect of doing it, and request some more brethren to be added.

Concluded, that this committee should be reappointed, with the addition of James Tracey, of Elkhart, and Jacob Miller, of Portage.

Art. 16. Request of a committee to go to Tiffin church, Seneca County, Ohio, concerning a sister whose husband left her, and she remained thus forsaken for seven years, but has now got a bill of divorce, and is married again. The following brethren were proposed and appointed a committee to investigate and settle this business: Joseph Showalter, of Stark County; John Molsbaugh, of Knox; John Shoemaker, of Mohegan; Elias Dicky, of Ashland, and Jacob Kurtz, of Wayne County—all in Ohio.

Art. 17. How are churches to proceed in the following case? A brother being cut off from the church with an excluded party, and afterward becomes guilty of adultery.

Considered, to hold him as the church does such party. See 1 Cor. 5: 13: "But them that are without, God judgeth."

Art. 18. Whether members have a right, by the gospel, to go begging for money through the different churches?

Considered, that they have no right, according to the gospel, and where there are poor members that are in a suffering condition, it is the duty of the church in which they live to see to it, and to supply their wants, and if that church is not able to support them, the church has a right to apply to the neighboring churches for help, and not the brother that is in want.

Art. 19. How is it considered, if a brother is legally expelled from the church, and afterward is taken sick, when he calls for the brethren, and requests of them to be anointed, and the brethren do anoint him, knowing that he is excluded from the church?

Considered, that according to gospel, we have no right to



anoint such as are not in fellowship with the church. The Word (See James 5) goes only to the faithful.

Art. 20. Are persons, who can be up and about, and go to meeting, proper subjects to receive the anointing, or has the apostle only reference to such who are altogether confined?

Considered, that the apostle has only alluded to those who are sick or in a decline of life.

Art. 21. Is it agreeable to the sense of the Word, that the anointing should be performed more than once in the same illness or confinement?

Considered, that no person should be anointed more than once in the same sickness, according to our understanding of the Word of God.

Art. 22. If a member leaves the church and joins another denomination, and after a while leaves that denomination and makes application to be received back into the church again, has the church a right to receive that member again?

Considered, that by acknowledging his or her fault, and giving satisfaction to the church, he may be received again.

Art. 23. Is it right for brethren to take an active part in the construction of public works, such as railroads, turn-pikes, plank-roads, and canals, and thereby are instrumental in damaging the property of many citizens?

Considered, that brethren ought not to take an active part in any public work, to the injury of private property, but always should do as they would wish to be done unto, and not be entangled with the affairs of this world. 2 Tim. 2: 4.

Art. 24. Have we a right to refuse the salutation of the holy kiss to a brother that is intoxicated with strong drink, or to one that is unclean by the intemperate use of tobacco?

Considered, that no brother could be censured if he refuses to salute a brother intoxicated, or unclean with using tobacco or strong drink.

Art. 25. A call for a committee to be sent to Jonathan's Creek, Ohio. The following brethren were appointed for the business: John Molsbaugh, John Shoemaker, of Mohegan, John P. Ebersole, Jacob Kurtz, and Henry Davy.

Art. 26. A request for a committee to visit two church districts in Montgomery County, Ohio. The request was granted by nominating Benjamin Bowman and David Hardman, of Indiana;



Daniel Miller, of Preble; George Butterbaugh, of Miami; John Frantz, of Clark; Michael Meyer, of Montgomery, and Abraham Miller, of Allen—all in Ohio.

Art. 27. Is it according to the gospel to receive a man into the church, belonging to the order of Odd Fellows?

Considered, that it is not, unless he is willing to withdraw from and renounce that order.

Art. 28. A request from the church between Salem and Union, Montgomery County, Ohio, for the assistance of a committee. This request was also granted, by appointing George Hoover, of Henry; George W. Studybecker, Daniel Miller, of Four-Mile, John Shively and Martin Cable, all of Indiana, to be said committee.

Art. 29. The following was also proposed and adopted: This meeting would advise, that every church, before the time of the Annual Meeting, should take counsel, and select brethren to represent them in Annual Meeting, and also counsel whether they have anything to send, and if so, that they pass the counsel of the church, and put every question on a paper by itself, and state from what church, and sign it, and fold it, and write on the back of it briefly what the question is. Thus it should be handed in or sent by mail. Brethren who would bring questions otherwise than in the above way, should come before the committee, and state the question, and the reason why they could not counsel the church, else the question can not be received. (The object of this is chiefly to concentrate the business of the meeting, which otherwise could not be gone through in so short a time as two or three days.)

Art. 30. A petition, signed by more than seventy members, for a committee to investigate the case of Daniel Zook, of Snake Spring Valley, Pennsylvania.

Granted, by appointing Peter Long, of Perry; Andrew Spanogle, of Huntingdon, and Jacob Meyer, of Somerset County, all in Pennsylvania, and Joseph Arnold and Jacob Biser, of Hampshire County, Virginia, to be said committee.

Art. 31. Regarding our next Annual Meeting, the invitation was repeated by our dear brethren at Beaver Dam, Maryland, for next year, and a new invitation laid in from the Aughwick Church, Pennsylvania, for the year after next.

It was concluded that our next Yearly Meeting should be, God willing, on Pentecost, 1853, with our beloved brethren in Beaver Dam church, Maryland, and inasmuch as it has been granted to our Western brethren to have the Yearly Meeting every second year, it was agreed, that if they do not make a request, particularly urging, our dear Aughwick brethren shall have the first claim for the Yearly Meeting in 1854.



Letters concerning next Annual Meeting may be addressed to either of the following brethren: Jacob Sayler, or Isaac Pfoutz, Johnsville, Frederick County, Maryland, or Daniel P. Sayler, Middleburg, Carroll County, Maryland. It was also stated that brethren coming from a distance by railroad should make Monrovia, Frederick County, Maryland, their stopping-place, where a brother will be in attendance at the depot, and conveyances provided to bring the brethren to the place of meeting.

Finally, the meeting was closed with prayer and praise on Wednesday afternoon, about 4 o'clock.

Signed by the committee, George Hoke, Geo. Shively, Jos. Emmert, John Kline, Dan. Bernhart, D. P. Sayler, Ben. Bowman, D. Miller, H. Kurtz.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1853.

Beaver Dam, Md.

The following points had been presented, and were considered in the fear of the Lord:

Article 1. Whether it would not give more general satisfaction, in the arrangement of the standing committee, to select them, by ballot, out of the whole number of ordained brethren present?

Considered, unanimously, to make no change, in this matter, from the ancient and present usage, viz., that the elders of the church, where the Yearly Meeting is held, should have the privilege, as heretofore, to nominate said committee.

Art. 2. Whether it is necessary to abide by the twenty-ninth article of last year's minutes, with regard to indorsing the letters on the outside, whether they contained queries or not?

Concluded, unanimously, that this article be so altered that only the word query, and how many queries? be indorsed on the outside.

Art. 3. In regard to the fourth query of last year's minutes, concerning the "Gospel Visitor?"

Inasmuch as the "Visitor" is a private undertaking of its editor, we unanimously conclude that this meeting should not any further interfere with it.

Art. 4. Is it consistent with the gospel and its principles, as professed by our brotherhood, when a brother is chosen to the ministry only, not being authorized to baptize, that the ordained elder of the congregation should forward such brother, without consulting the church?

Considered, that all the power under God is vested in the



church, and that, therefore, the church, should, in all cases, be consulted.

Art. 5. Is it right for brethren to have intoxicating liquors at public sales?

Considered as wrong, that it should not be so at all, nor at any other gathering.

Art. 6. Is it right for brethren to take a dram in public, when in perfect health?

We are of the opinion that it has the appearance of evil, and should not be indulged in, or partaken of at all, as a beverage.

Art. 7. How is it considered, when a brother lets his beard grow awhile, and afterward cuts it off, or trims it according to the fashion of the world?

The committee was of the opinion, that if a brother lets his beard grow, in honor of his profession, that he should not cut it off, nor by any means, to trim it in conformity to the fashions of the world. (See Rom. 12.) This was adopted.

Art. 8. How shall we proceed, in case we have a love-feast, and a sister, or sisters, come from another congregation to our love-feast, who wear ear-rings or jewels; whether we have a right to take them in council, and, if not willing to lay them off, whether we are privileged to keep them from the communion table?

The committee was decidedly of opinion that as it is positively forbidden by Holy Writ (see 1 Peter 3: 3; 1 Tim. 2: 9), it should not be tolerated, except in cases of actual necessity; and that the church, where such members propose to participate in the communion, has the right to take them into council, and if they are not willing to be admonished, to advise them to withdraw till they are willing to sacrifice those forbidden things.

Art. 9. Concerning slavery. How shall any branch of the church proceed, in case an individual wishes to become a member, who is in possession of a slave or slaves, and the law of the State in which they reside is such that they cannot manumit them in safety, without transporting them beyond its limits; and as we are aware that the several states where slavery does not exist are contemplating and passing strenuous laws, prohibiting their emigration thither, etc., it seems indispensably necessary for us to adopt some other plan than hitherto practiced, in order that the church should be kept clear from the evils of slavery, and that such persons may be enabled to come into Christ's kingdom?

The questions involved were considered too important, and



therefore concluded to intrust this matter to a committee, to report thereon as soon as possible, the committee to consist of the following brethren: Joseph Arnold and Benj. Moomaw, of Virginia, John M. Umstad, Sam. Lehman, Isaac Price, and David Bosserman, of Pennsylvania, and Daniel P. Sayler and Henry Koons, of Maryland.

Art. 10. A request from the church in Williams County, Ohio, for a visit, in order to settle difficulties among the leading members of said church.

It was concluded to appoint a committee, consisting of Jacob Miller, of Portage, Indiana; Abraham Miller, of Allen, John P. Ebersole, of Seneca, and Elias Dickey, of Ashland, all in Ohio.

Art. 11. What is the most proper or scriptural mode of ordaining an elder or bishop—by the voice of the church, over whom the elder is to be ordained, or by the wish or declaration of the elders or bishops of neighboring churches?

Answered by referring to the minutes of 1851, Art. 6.

Art. 12. Could there not much good be done in the noble work of spreading the gospel by advising such brethren wishing to emigrate westward to locate themselves where they are most needed?

Considered, that we can do no more but recommend to brethren-teachers moving to the West, to take this into serious consideration.

Art. 13. Could not the brethren adopt a plan to hold the Yearly Meetings in such a manner that public preaching might be held in the neighborhood around, and not at the place for council?

Concluded, to make no change for the present.

Art. 14. How is it considered for a man, who is a brother, to purchase a man or woman that is a slave, upon condition that such slave shall be free, or emancipated, after serving the purchaser a certain number of years, agreed upon by the slave and his purchaser, without consulting the church?

Considered, that no brother should do so without the counsel of the church; and we believe the better way would be to have nothing at all to do with slavery in no shape or form whatever.

Art. 15. How would the brethren hold a teacher that had preached that there was no such a being as a devil and that there was no serpent that beguiled Eve in the garden of Eden; that it was only the lust that tempted her and every one; but, after being



admonished, promised not to teach nor argue said doctrine, yet still harbors the same belief?

Considered, that such teacher was admonished right, that he should not preach such doctrine; and if he should still persist in holding such sentiments, the brethren could not hold him as a teacher, or even as a member. He should be admonished to search the Scriptures, which are able to make him wise unto salvation.

Art. 16. Concerning going to law.

Considered, that it should be left as it was decided last year. (See Minutes of 1852, Art. 3).

Art. 17. Concerning going to political meetings and elections.

Considered best not to attend any such at all, inasmuch as the true Christian belongs to another kingdom.

Art. 18. Concerning brethren going security for dealers in ardent spirits, in getting their license to sell the same.

Considered, that brethren should by no means do so.

Art. 19. Concerning brethren purchasing and drawing lottery tickets.

Considered, that brethren should not have anything at all to do with this, or any other species of gambling.

Art. 20. Whether brethren should observe days of fasting, appointed by the President of the United States, or the governors of the respective states in which we live?

Considered, that brethren should pray always, and not faint, and also to fast as often as practicable. But, considering Rom. 13: 1-7, and also 14: 5, 6, it should be left optional with the churches and members to observe such days, or not, as they are "fully persuaded in their own minds."

Art. 21. Have we a right to put away the lamb at the Lord's Supper, and use beef in the place thereof?

Considered, that we would rather see a lamb prepared; but inasmuch as Christ has made us free from the ceremonial law, and as there is no command in the New Testament that it must be so, we should bear with each other in love in such matters.

Art. 22. In case a brother would be seen in a trespass against the gospel by one brother, at one day, and in a similar one by another brother the next day, and again in a like trespass by a third brother at another time, whether these three witnesses are sufficient to establish the trespass?



Considered, that the testimony is sufficient to convict the brother, and that he should be dealt with according to the gospel.

Art. 23. Does the answer to the tenth query, as it stands on the minutes of 1846, only forbid the grandeur of paintings and carpets, or does it forbid them altogether?

We consider the advice of our brethren in 1846 sufficiently clear.

Art. 24. Is it right to give a certificate to a brother, when he moves out of the church district without paying his debts, or giving general satisfaction to his creditors?

Considered, that if the church is satisfied of the brother's having been honest, and having done all that he could to pay his debts and satisfy his creditors, he ought to have a certificate. But should the brother be able, and not willing to pay his debts, or give or try to give satisfaction to his creditors, he should by no means have a certificate of full membership in the church.

Art. 25. How is it considered, when brethren hold prayer meetings decently and in order?

Considered, that every brother should meet daily with his family, for worship in his own house; that when brethren meet together, accidentally or by appointment, they are at perfect liberty to sing and pray together, read the Scriptures, and exhort each other, all of which should be done decently and in order; but we would advise our brethren to drop the name of prayer meeting, and call them simply meetings.

Art. 26. How one arm of the church shall proceed toward another, in case of a departure from the general order of the church?

Considered, that inasmuch as all the arms of the church are but one body in Christ, and each arm stands in the same relation to the other as an individual member stands to the other individual member; and inasmuch as an individual is not only at liberty, but commanded to go to his brother, if that brother has done something by which he considers himself grieved, in order to gain his brother to an arm of the church, feeling aggrieved at proceedings in and by another arm, has not only a right, but also a solemn duty to do likewise, and to do it either by going or writing to such arm.

Art. 27. Whether it is allowed for brethren to distill fruit, or get it distilled, and sell the liquor?

We say, No, not at all.

Art. 28. Is it right for a brother to go to college, or teach the same.

Considered, that we would deem colleges a very unsafe place



for a simple follower of Christ, inasmuch as they are calculated to lead us astray from the faith and obedience to the gospel.

Art. 29. Is it in accordance with the gospel for brethren to go to the county and state fairs, exhibiting property, or otherwise taking part in the same?

Considered, as quite unbecoming and improper for pilgrims being found there. We should remember poor Christian at Vanity Fair.

Art. 30. How is it considered when brethren preach a doctrine, which is not in accordance with the decision of the Yearly Meeting, and speak privately to or with members against such decisions?

Considered, that for love and union sake they ought not to do so.

Art. 31. Can a brother be judged by testimony from without the church, if he denies the charge?

Considered, that he cannot. (See Minutes of 1837, Art. 2).

Art. 32. When an ordained brother sues, or causes to be sued, a brother in an adjoining church, where is the case to be investigated?

Considered, that it is to be investigated in the church where the ordained brother lives.

Art. 33. Is it right to discuss moral questions in our meeting-houses?

Considered, that our brethren had better keep the houses, built for the worship of God, exclusively for that special purpose.

Art. 34. How is it considered when a brother goes to law, in order to collect money due him, and other brethren justify him in it, and even speakers can see no wrong in it, and are opposed to having it brought before the church?

Considered, that it is not in accordance with the gospel to make use of the law to collect money, and that it is wrong for brethren to justify it, and still more wrong for speakers to oppose its being brought before the church.

Art. 35. How is it considered when churches, having no overseer, call upon those old brethren, who have an oversight over them, to come and assist them in weighty matters, and they do not attend?

Considered, that such elders ought to attend, and if they do not,



the church may call on other elders to assist them. (See Minutes of 1852, Art. 9).

Art. 36. How is it considered when a brother, at a love-feast, or meeting where dinners are given, having been at the first table, where a blessing was asked, and thanks returned orderly, afterward rises, and returns thanks at the second or third table?

Considered, that it had better not been done.

Art. 37. As regards testimony between members, where two of the brethren's children testify in the same case, but contradict each other; the one brother's child being a member, the other not, but of good moral character.

Considered, that all other things being equal, we take the testimony of a brother or member.

Art. 38. Is a church justifiable in expelling a member for the crime of drunkenness, so long as members generally continue in the custom, whereby men are made drunkards?

Considered, as drunkenness comes directly from moderate drinking, therefore every church should keep the advice of the Yearly Meeting, to use no intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and then they can consistently disown the brother.

Art. 39. Would it not be more consistent with the gospel, and the practice of the apostles, to extend the kiss, termed the holy kiss and the kiss of charity, to each other only when coming together and separating from each other and not at feet-washing and the communion; or did our Lord and Master indeed institute such a thing in that night in which he was betrayed?

Considered, that we feel perfect liberty in the gospel, to continue as we always heretofore have done.

Art. 40. Report from Jonathan's Creek Church, in Ohio, and repeated request for a new committee.

Request granted; and Brethren Geo. Shively, from Stark County, John Shoemaker, of Mohegan, John P. Ebersole, of Seneca, John Molsbaugh, of Knox, Jacob Kurtz, of Wayne, and Henry Davy, of Delaware County, Ohio, appointed to be said committee.

Art. 41. Whether, in holding a choice for a teacher, after taking the voice of the church, there ought not to be lots cast between the two highest?

Considered, that the practice of the church, generally, is to receive him who has the highest number of voices.



Art. 42. If a person makes application to be received into the church, and believes that the wicked will be totally burned up, can he be received with that faith or not?

Considered, that persons should, in the first place, be taught the principles of the gospel, and then be baptized on his faith, showing forth fruits of repentance.

Art. 43. Concerning anointing the sick with oil.

Considered, that it should be administered according to the manner laid down by the brethren in the minutes of 1844, to be reprinted now again, if there is room left.

Art. 44. How it is considered when choices are held for teachers or deacons, in a different manner from the general usage, choosing by ballot, in presence of all the church, and without ordained elders from other churches being present?

Considered, that a choice should be held by each and every member coming before the elders, and giving their voice privately. The presence of two, or at least one ordained elder, from another church, has been deemed necessary always, so as to avoid the least appearance of partiality, etc.

Art. 45. Inasmuch as there had been a difference in the form of words, in administering baptism, settled and brought to a union some years ago, could we not, also, come to a full union and agreement with regard to feet-washing, the Lord's Supper, etc., so that a member from one section would find in every other section the same celebration, in manner and form, as at home?

Considered, to refer this to the next Yearly Meeting.

Art. 46. Concerning the place of our next Yearly Meeting, invitations had been sent in from our brethren in Ashland County, Ohio, for next year, and from Aughwick church, Pennsylvania, for the year after next.

It was, therefore, concluded, that the Yearly Meeting, on Pentecost, 1854, is to take place, God willing, with our beloved brethren in Ashland County, Ohio, and, if the request be repeated, the year after next with our loving brethren on Aughwick, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Brethren coming to Yearly Meeting with no other object than this, will bear in mind, that in order to lessen the burden of the Yearly Meeting, to the church where it is held, it has been agreed upon, two years ago, not to meet before Sunday morning, and that it is consequently not necessary to arrive in the neighborhood before Saturday evening.

As to the Yearly Meeting next year, in Ashland County, it was stated by Bro. Elias Dickv, that brethren from the East,



coming by railroad, should stop at Wooster, and brethren from the West, at Mansfield, whence the brethren of Ashland will make arrangements to have them conveyed to the place of meeting. Necessary written communications will be attended to, by addressing them to Elias Dicky, Ashland, Ohio.

In conclusion, all united once more in prayer and praises to God for the assistance granted to go through the labors of this Yearly Meeting, asking pardon for all that was amiss, and commending ourselves, with all the churches of the living God, to his care and protection.

Signed, in behalf of the meeting, by the committee of elders—Geo. Hook, Daniel Miller, Elias Dicky, of Ohio; Benj. Bowman, David Miller, of Indiana; Joseph Emmert of Illinois; Benjamin Bowman, John Kline, of Virginia; Christ. Longenecker, Peter Long, of Pennsylvania; Jacob Leatherman, Jacob Sayler, of Maryland.

A true record.

Henry Kurtz, Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1854.

Ashland County, Ohio.

Having again been permitted, through the mercy of God, to meet in general council, on Monday morning the meeting was organized by appointing a standing committee of twelve ordained elders—two from each State (Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois) represented, and a clerk, who, having retired to a private room, received the messengers and papers sent from the different churches. Churches represented, 107, by 36 ordained elders, 58 ministers in the second, and 21 in the first degree; 40 deacons, and 15 private members. Ten committees were nominated to examine the papers, and report thereon to the meeting, and on Tuesday morning the council commenced.

The following queries were reported and disposed of, in the fear of the Lord:

Article 1. Report of the committee appointed last year on the subject of slavery. (See Minutes of 1853, Art. 9.) The question having been, "How shall any branch of the church proceed in case an individual wishes to become a member who is in possession of slaves, and the law of the state in which they live is such that they cannot manumit them in safety, without transporting them beyond its limits?"

"Agreeable to the ninth query of Yearly Meeting of 1853, concerning slavery, the committee appointed to report the same have had this subject under serious consideration, in the fear of the Lord, and do report as follows:



"First, Under no circumstances can slavery be admitted into the church.

"Second, In all cases where a holder of a slave or slaves wishes to become a member in the church, he be required to manumit all his slaves before baptism, upon the following conditions: The males to go out free at the age of twenty-one, and the females at the age of eighteen years. All those over and above these ages, when manumitted, are to be paid by their former owner such a sum, either in money or goods, as may be judged right by the church in which the case may occur, and which is considered as the best judge, being acquainted with all the circumstances—as a compensation for their services over age. This will enable the manumitted to migrate to a land of liberty, and will relieve the conscience of the liberator from the burden of taking with him to the bar of God the wages of oppression."

This report was adopted, after a lengthy discussion by the meeting.

Art. 2. Whether it is contrary to the gospel for brethren to lay out towns?

Considered, that it is not, but that we would at the same time caution our brethren against all schemes of extravagant speculation.

Art. 3. Is it agreeable to the gospel for a brother to give ground for meeting-houses to such that do not preach the gospel in its purity; and if not, how is he to be dealt with?

Considered, as positively inconsistent with the gospel, as appears from the following testimonies: 2 John 10, 11; Eph. 5: 11; 2 Cor. 6: 14-18. And as regards the manner of dealing with such, we recommend that they should be admonished, and required to make acknowledgment.

Art. 4. Bro. Samuel Lehman was nominated as agent for the Garber legacy in northern Illinois, in place of Joseph Emmert, resigned. Approved.

Art. 5. Bro. Daniel Miller, of Preble County, Ohio, was nominated as agent for the same fund in southwestern Ohio, in place of John Brower, resigned. Also approved.

Art. 6. Requests for our brethren in northern Illinois for the Yearly Meeting in 1856.

Postponed till the other business is disposed of.

Art. 7. Can a person be reinstated into the church after having been excluded for immoral conduct, when he holds the opinion that the sisters have no voice in church council?

Considered, better not receive such, as long as they entertain views contrary to the order of the church.



Art. 8. Is it expedient for a laboring brother to give liberty to a private brother to exhort or bear testimony at public worship?

Considered, as not advisable, and brethren should be cautious not to offend the church by showing partiality to individual members.

Art. 9. If a brother is disowned in one church, and moves to another at a distance, and there desires to be received again, showing symptoms of repentance, acknowledging his fault, and being willing to make reparation as soon as he is able; this being made known to the church from whence he came, repeatedly, but nothing is done, nor any answer given by said church—can he be received under such circumstances by the church where he lives, or not?

Considered, according to 2 Cor. 2: 6-8, that the church, where a fault has been committed, should act and answer the church where the disowned member lives, without delay.

Art. 10. As there is some difference of opinion respecting John 13: 5, the question arises, whether one and the same member shall perform the double act of washing and wiping the saints' feet?

Considered, in the same light as it was in 1849 (Art. 39), that the manner of feet-washing could not be amended, inasmuch as the command is fully obeyed in the way we observe it.

Art. 11. If one or more churches would so choose to come together in the evening to observe the ordinances of the house of God, as delivered unto us by the Savior, and continue public worship next day, believing that thereby some of the evils might be obviated, which too often accompany our love-feasts, would it be considered a departure from the Word?

Considered, No; but at the same time we would advise, that the churches should be careful to observe the ordinances of the Lord, at the proper time and in due order, and to avoid all unnecessary changes.

Art. 12. When a man who says he is very near the brethren, but yet finds fault with them, comes and wants to hold meetings among us, what shall we do with him and with such brethren who go with and encourage such?

Considered, that we ought not to receive such as ministers, and brethren who encourage them should be admonished, as those who do not walk consistently with the gospel. "A house divided against itself cannot stand."



Art. 13. In case a leading brother in the ministry (ordained or not ordained) would be reported as having committed a gross public fault, and the ordained brethren of an adjoining congregation, at the request of some of the members of the church where the fault has been committed, call a council in that church and investigate the matter; have these ordained brethren done right?

Considered, that in such case, those ordained brethren would have done right, inasmuch as the individual church is, however large it may be, only a branch or member of the body of Christ, and inasmuch as it is the duty of ordained elders to take care of every branch of that body especially when the leading member is sick or unfaithful.

Art. 14. Is it consistent with the example and doctrine of Christ and his apostles, when brethren write and publish books, and afterward revise and republish them, etc.?

Considered, that brethren should be careful in their publications, and especially of other men's books.

Art. 15. A request for the Yearly Meeting in 1857 to be held in the church in Washington County, Maryland.

This invitation will be considered in due time.

Art. 16. Is it allowed by the gospel for a sister, after her husband is dead, to be married to her step-son?

Considered, not allowed according to the following passages: 1 Cor. 5: 1; Lev. 8: 8. Churches should be watchful to purge out such a leaven from among them.

Art. 17. A request for a committee to visit Upper Conowago Church, Pennsylvania.

Granted, and Brethren Jacob Sayler, of Maryland, William Boyers, of Franklin, John Berkley, of Somerset, Isaac Meyers, of Union, and Jacob Hollinger, of Dauphin Counties, all in Pennsylvania, nominated as such committee.

Art. 18. Would it be more in accordance with the gospel to hold our love-feasts on Thursday, before Easter?

Considered, that the gospel does not bind us to any particular day.

Art. 19. How will it be considered if a brother, serving in the office of a deacon, does not let his beard grow, and when admonished, opposes, and asks Scripture on that question?

Considered, that the brethren should bear and forbear in love, and give him the best Scripture ground they can.



Art. 20. Is it not the duty of each church to keep their poor, and not let them become a county-charge, or, is it right to send a brother to the poor-house at the expense of the county?

Considered, that this question was fully and correctly answered in 1851 and 1852. (See Minutes of 1851, Art. 20, and of 1852, Art. 18.)

Art. 21. A request for the next Annual Meeting, in 1855, by the church on Aughwick, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Will be considered hereafter.

Art. 22. A request that the oldest bishop choose or appoint twelve brethren to hold a communion or love-feast at the time (and place) of Yearly Meeting, as a model, to show us the right order, according to the gospel.

Considered, that Christ with his apostles, in that doleful night when he (the Savior) was betrayed, has given a model, and showed us the right order.

Art. 23. A request to reconsider query 3 on the Minutes of 1853, which reads thus: "Have we a right to help making the political government, and to serve as officers; also to put the law in force against any of our fellow-men in any case whatever?"

Considered, that this query was sufficiently and correctly answered in 1852. (See Rom. 6: 16; 10: 1-3; 2 Pet. 1: 19; 2: 19; 1 John 3: 8, 9; Matt. 6: 24; 2 Cor. 6: 5-8; John 18: 36.)

Art. 24. Is it more in unison with the gospel to use lamb at our love-feasts instead of beef?

Considered, this query to be answered by the 21st article of the Minutes of 1853.

Art. 25. Whether the 29th article of the Minutes of 1852 should not be readopted?

Considered, to let it remain as decided last year (Art. 2), with the understanding that each query should be written on a separate paper.

Art. 26. A request from Coventry Church, Chester County, Pennsylvania, for a committee to examine grievances and difficulties there existing.

The request granted, and the following brethren appointed: Dan. P. Sayler and Philip Boyle, of Maryland; John Kline, of Virginia, and Samuel Harley, Jacob Wenger, and Christian Longenecker, of Pennsylvania.



Art. 27. A similar request for a committee to visit Lower Cumberland Church, in Pennsylvania.

Also granted, and Brethren Isaac Pfoutz, of Maryland; Samuel Miller, Peter Long, Andrew Spanogle, and David Bosserman, all of Pennsylvania, nominated for this committee.

Art. 28. A letter from Fulton County, Illinois, to be answered by the standing committee, which was done, approving of their proceedings.

Finally, was considered the question about the next Yearly Meeting—there having been sent in a request for the Yearly Meeting in 1855 by our brethren on Aughwick, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania; another for the Yearly Meeting in 1856 by our brethren in northwestern Illinois, and another for the Yearly Meeting in 1857 by our brethren in Washington County, Maryland. Hence it was concluded, that our next Yearly Meeting should be held, God willing, with the Aughwick congregation, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, on Pentecost, 1855, and the request for the succeeding years be put on record, so that if the invitations should be repeated, and no more pressing claim should intervene, they may stand first for future consideration.

With regard to our next Annual Meeting on Aughwick, it was stated by letter from our dear brother, Andrew Spanogle, that it will be held at their meeting-house; that the nearest station on the railroad is Mount Union, from whence it is seven miles to the meeting-house, and to Bro. Samuel Lutz, who lives near it. Letters addressed to Elder Andrew Spanogle, Shirleysburg, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, will be attended to.

Signed in behalf of the meeting and the standing committee of elders: George Hoke, George Shively, of Ohio; John Kline, Joseph Arnold, of Virginia; Philip Boyle, Dan. P. Sayler, of Maryland; C. Longenecker, John Berkley, of Pennsylvania; Jacob Miller, George Hoover, of Indiana; Joseph Emmert, Christian Long, of Illinois.  
Henry Kurtz, Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1855.

Aughwick, Huntingdon County, Pa.

After public worship, held on Lord's-day, before the council meeting was commenced on Monday morning, by singing and prayer, and making the necessary statements. The meeting was organized by appointing a standing committee of thirteen elders,



with two clerks, and one hundred and ten brethren were representing the churches, who were divided into ten committees, to examine and report on the papers sent in. On Tuesday morning most of the committees were ready to report, and the following queries were proposed and answered in the fear of the Lord:

Article 1. A request for a committee to visit Sugar Creek congregation, in Tuscarawas County, Ohio.

Granted, and Brethren Joseph Showalter, John Shoemaker, Elias Dicky, John Molsbaugh, and Jacob Kurtz, appointed for this visit.

Art. 2. How is it considered, if a young brother and sister want to marry each other, and being opposed by their parents (members, too), accomplish their design so late as to bring reproach upon themselves and the church?

Considered, that the young members should be dealt with according to the circumstances, so as to prove that the church is not participating in evil, and that the parents should also be admonished, if the church finds them in error.

Art. 3. How is it considered, if a brother, or brethren, belong to the party so-called "Know-Nothings," and take an active part in it, trying to persuade brethren to join said party?

Considered, that no brother, who is a member of the so-called Know-Nothings, or any other secret society, can be a member of our communion.

Art. 4. Hath a brother a right to defend himself with a deadly weapon at the appearance of being in danger?

Considered, he hath not, inasmuch as the Savior says to Peter: "Put up thy sword into his place; for all they that take the sword, shall perish with the sword." Matt. 26: 52.

Art. 5. Renewal of the invitation from the church in Washington County, Maryland, for the Annual Meeting in 1857.

Considered, that they are entitled to it, provided the invitation is renewed next year.

Art. 6. Is it consistent with the gospel to receive persons into the church with hand and kiss, when circumstances will not permit baptism to be performed?

Considered, that it is not according to the gospel to consider persons as members of the church without baptism; yet they should be encouraged, and, if they wish it, their cases may be taken into consideration by the church, in council, and they be



received as candidates for baptism, which is to be performed as soon as circumstances will permit.

Art. 7. How it would be considered, if a brother obtains a patent for any invention?

Considered, that it would be safest, in all cases, first to ask counsel of the church before obtaining a patent.

Art. 8. Whether it is agreeable with the Word of God to erect tombstones?

Considered, that it would not agree with the principles of the gospel, such as humility, nonconformity to the world, etc., to erect large and expensive tombstones.

Art. 9. What course is the church to pursue with members, and even speakers, who say they cannot see, with the brethren, that the pardon of sin, and the reception of the Holy Spirit, follow baptism, believing and contending that many do experience the pardon of sin and receive the Holy Spirit before baptism, when such brethren have been admonished, again and again, that they should not contend for, or preach, such doctrine; but after all the admonitions and labor to convince them of their error from the Scriptures, which they will acknowledge, and then turn right about and contend for the same old thing, thereby wounding the feelings of the brethren, etc.?

Considered, that we should bear with one another's private opinion in love, but ought to be united in word and sentiment as regards "the common salvation" (Jude 3), and ought to speak the same thing; that is to say, the plain, simple, Word of God, and earnestly and unitedly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints, and that a doctrine contrary to the common plan of salvation should not be preached or contended for; but if done, and the brother is admonished according to the gospel, and he will not hear, we would have to proceed according to Matt. 18. However, it was recommended to use all possible leniency, long-suffering, and forbearance in such a case.

Art. 10. How is a church to proceed with members, who were disowned because the brother married a sister who was married before to a man (not a brother), and was divorced from him on account of him committing adultery, but who has since died?

Considered, if the church is satisfied of the former husband's death, and with the repentance of the brother and sister, they may be received again.

Art. 11. Is a speaker allowed to take any amount of money for marrying that may be offered him, and if so, how much?



Referred to Art. 9 of the Yearly Meeting in Wayne County, Ohio, 1848, which reads thus: "Considered, that this meeting cannot advise brethren to take a fee, and would leave it, as a matter of conscience, to the ministering brother, with the advice of the church in which he lives."

Art. 12. How is it considered when members leave at council-meetings before it is nearly out, in order to attend another religious meeting (not of our brethren), and when other members do not attend council meeting at all?

Considered, that all members should be punctual to attend council-meetings, and remember the apostle's admonition (Heb. 10: 25): "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is;" and such as would leave council-meetings, for no other cause than above mentioned, should be earnestly reminded that "God is not the author of confusion." 1 Cor. 14: 33. In conclusion, it was deemed proper to admonish our dear brethren and sisters to observe that order and decency, in attending our council-meetings, as in all other cases, as the Word teaches us. 1 Cor. 14: 40.

Art. 13. A request for a committee to visit the church in Tulpehaccon, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania.

Granted, and Elders Samuel Harley, Jacob Wenger, Jacob Hollinger, Samuel Miller, and David Gerlach, appointed.

Art. 14. It is conforming with the world to build meeting-houses?

Answer: No, if built without unnecessary ornaments, and only for the worship of God.

Art. 15. How is it considered, if a member is taken to a Lunatic Asylum by the children, that are not members; is it the duty of the church to pay the expenses?

Considered, that the church is not bound to pay any debts but those which it contracts.

Art. 16. A private letter requesting a committee to settle difficulties in Mahoning Church, Ohio.

Privately answered by the committee.

Art. 17. If two brethren were chosen, at one and the same time, as ministers in the first degree, and some time afterward advanced together to the second degree, and in course of time the church is in need of an overseer or bishop, can those two brethren both be ordained as such, or only one?

Considered, that in such a case both brethren may be or-



dained, provided there be no sufficient cause known to prevent it.

Art. 18. In case a young sister, being deceived by promises of marriage, and is left afterward, in shame and distress, by her deceiver, can she be retained as a member, if she shows repentance, etc.?

This question might be answered with a question of the apostle (1 Cor. 5: 6): "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" and it was considered, that such a sister should be expelled, until she comes and makes humble and public acknowledgment of her error before the church, and affords ample proof of sincere penitence.

Art. 19. What to do with a person wishing to become a member, and confessing to be a Freemason, yet not willing to renounce it?

Considered, that no person could, or should, be admitted into the church, unless he shall previously renounce all connection whatever with Feemasonry, or any and every other secret society, with which he may have been connected.

Art. 20. What is the advice of the General Council to individual members, say four, five, or more, who cannot commune with the church because they have beef instead of a lamb at their love-feast?

Considered as good advice for such members to submit to the order of the church where they live, and to reflect on the admonition of the apostle (Col. 2: 16, 17): "Let no man, therefore, judge you, in meat or in drink," etc., "which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." Again, to learn of his example (Phil. 4: 11), where he says: "For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am [with whomsoever I am, according to the German translation] therewith to be content."

Art. 21. Is it according to the gospel, at the close of our meetings, to sing a hymn, and invite mourners to come forward, and if none will come, to sing another hymn, and give another invitation, and lastly, to tell the congregation to rise on their feet, and, with raised hand, speak a blessing over the people?

Considered, that this is not agreeable with the gospel, and should not be done.

Art. 22. Request for the Yearly Meeting of 1858 from the brethren in Wabash Valley, Indiana.

The invitation gratefully accepted, and may be granted, God willing, if repeated.

Art. 23. How it is considered, if a church, having no ordained



elder, has a case of gross sin, such as is described in 1 Cor. 5: 11, and application is made to ordained elders to assist them, the elders making an appointment, and failing to attend; has the church a right to put such members back, or ought the church to hold such transgressors as full members, until they can get ordained elders?

Considered, that the church may, and ought, to put them back provisionally, when the crime is sufficiently proven, until ordained elders can attend.

Art. 24. If two brethren, or members, should raise a quarrel, before or in the presence of others, so as nearly to come in bodily conflict, or to fight, can such matter be settled between those members, or ought it to be brought before the church?

Considered, that such public crimes must be settled before and by the church.

Art. 25. Concerning the difference in the time of coming together for holding love-feasts; does it not appear as if there was a division or disunion among us, when some churches meet and have public worship (according to ancient order of the brethren) in the forenoon, others at one, two, or three o'clock, and again others in the evening, about the time when the exercises immediately connected with the Lord's Supper should begin? Could there not a uniform practice be adopted in this, as it used to be among the brethren in by-gone years?

Considered, to be left to the consideration of the churches, and to let them decide when their love-feasts are to be held.

Art. 26. How is it considered best to do with a brother, or brethren, that will not use the words, in administering baptism, as it was decided at the Yearly Meeting, near Wooster, Ohio, in 1848, "for the remission or forgiveness of sin"?

Considered, that the decision of said council should be observed, as it was observed by many brethren from time immemorial, and those brethren, who will not submit to it, should be admonished, for love sake, and for the Word's sake, to comply.

Art. 27. Would it not be right to hold a love-feast, after all matters are settled, at the Yearly Meeting, inasmuch as many of us will never see each other again (in this life), and thus show, also, a pattern to all the brethren, how it ought to be held?

Considered it best to have no love-feast at our Annual Meetings, as the number of people present is so large.

Art. 28. How ought the church to hold a member, who argues



and contends that Christ was eating the Jewish passover with his disciples, and at the same time the Jews did eat it; and also contends that it is not binding on the followers of Christ to observe a supper, or any thing more than the bread and wine, and that feet-washing ought to be observed after eating, neither can be satisfied with the brethren that preach otherwise?

Considered, that as it appears evident, from John 13: 1-29; 19: 14; 18: 28, that Christ's supper with his disciples was eaten before the Jewish passover, and it appears, from a comparison of Mark 14: 20, and John 13: 26, that the supper recorded by Mark and that recorded by John, are the same. Again, Luke calls the meal which Christ ate with his disciples, at which he instituted the communion, a supper, and a comparison of Luke 22: 23, and John 13: 25, will show that they were the same. Now, as it appears plain that the supper, in John 13, was before the Jewish passover, that of Luke 22: 20 was likewise before it, and, therefore, not the passover itself. Further, from the Acts of the Apostles, and from the epistles, we find that there was in the church a feast of charity. (See Jude 12, 1 Cor. 5: 8; 2 Peter 2: 13; Acts 18: 21). When we take all this evidence into consideration, we think it is sufficient to satisfy every sincere and candid mind, that those who want to adhere to the practice of the church, in the times of the apostles, must have a feast of charity; and those brethren who oppose such a feast oppose the gospel, and therefore should be admonished. And concerning the washing of feet after the communion, we would say, that it appears, from the reading of the thirteenth chapter of John, that feet-washing was practiced before John leaned on the bosom of Christ (see John 13: 23); but we find, from John 21: 20, that John leaned on the bosom of Christ at supper. Therefore, feet-washing was performed by Christ before supper, and certainly before the communion, as the communion was administered after supper.

Art. 29. Request for a committee to Illinois, to confer with the far-western brethren, or a committee of them, to investigate the differences in doctrine and practice existing between them and us, and report to the next Annual Meeting.

Granted, and Brethren Abraham Maas, Christian Long, John Metzger, Samuel Lehman, James H. Tracey, David Hardman, John Bowman, Daniel Frey, Daniel P. Sayler, John H. Umstad, and James Quinter, appointed for this business.

Art. 30. A request for advice, from our members in Oregon Territory.

Granted, by a letter signed by the standing committee.

Art. 31. A request for a committee to visit the church in Owen County, Indiana.



Left over to Elder John Metzger, to go there, with some more brethren (and at least one more elder), to investigate the case.

Art. 32. Request for next Yearly Meeting repeated by our brethren in northern Illinois. Upon this it was concluded that our next Annual Meeting shall take place, God willing, with our beloved brethren in Illinois, at the place of Bro. Michael Raber, in Stephenson County, on Pentecost, 1856. Nearest station on the railroad, Lena. Address Elder Daniel Frey, Kent, Stephenson County, Illinois.

Art. 33. Bro. John H. Umstad was appointed as agent for the receiving and distributing of Garber's legacy for the poor east of Susquehanna, in place of Bro. Christian Longenecker, deceased; and Bro. Peter Long in the same capacity for the west side of Susquehanna, in place of Andrew Spanogle, resigned.

Signed in behalf of the standing committee—Geo. Hoke, John Molsbaugh, of Ohio; J. Leatherman, John Metzger, of Indiana; Daniel Frey, of Illinois; John Kline, Daniel Brower, of Virginia; Daniel P. Sayler, George Bear, of Maryland; Daniel Bollinger, John H. Umstad, John Berkley, Andrew Spanogle, of Pennsylvania.

Henry Kurtz, Clerk.

James Quinter, Assistant Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1856.

Waddams Grove, Stephenson County, Ill.

As usual, there was public worship, not only on the Lord's-day, but also before and after, as opportunity offered, at different places. Monday morning the council meeting was opened, a standing committee nominated, and to this the papers, etc., handed in, and distributed among ten other committees. On Tuesday morning, after opening the meeting with singing and prayer, the committees reported the following points and queries, together with their answers, which were then further considered, in the fear of the Lord:

Article 1. What is to be done, according to the gospel, with brethren who take more than lawful interest, and are not willing to be subject to the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1826?

The gospel directs the subjects of Christ's kingdom to be subject to the laws of the land; therefore no brother should take more than the law allows. If he doth, he should be dealt with according to Matt. 18: and required to restore what has been taken unlawfully.



Art. 2. Is it proper for brethren to have their property insured by insurance companies?

Considered, to leave it as the brethren made it in 1847 (Art. 11), but we would, in addition, advise all brethren not to unite or bind themselves with or to any company or society of this world.

Art. 3. If members commit gross sins, such as fornication, etc., and there is no ordained brother in such district, and the church sends to the nearest adjoining districts for ordained brethren, who, with the full consent of the church, place such members under the ban or avoidance, as the apostle saith, "not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator," etc. (1 Cor. 5: 11), and afterward the oldest minister of such church turns round and tells the members, and even those who were placed in avoidance, that the brethren had no authority or right to do so, and by so doing creates considerable uneasiness in the church?

Considered, that such a brother has done wrong, and that he should be corrected.

Art. 4. How is it considered, when a church unitedly agrees not to use ardent spirits, except for medical, mechanical, or communion purpose, and a member of said church will not comply with the above decision?

Considered, that such a member should be dealt with as in other offenses.

Art. 5. Would it not be best in holding elections for the purpose of choosing ministers or deacons, that none of the ministering brethren of such district should take any part, or even be in the room where the votes of the members are received, but that brethren of other districts should be called for said purpose?

Considered, that every member should have an equal privilege of giving their voices, and that the remainder of this query were best left to the control of the strange brethren.

Art. 6. A request by the Elk Creek Church, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, for the Yearly Meeting in 1859.

Granted, provided the request be renewed, and Providence will allow it.

Art. 7. A request by the church in Carroll County, Illinois, for a committee to settle difficulties existing there.

Granted, and referred to the standing committee to make the appointment. This appointment was made, and Brethren Andrew



Spanogle, Samuel Gerber, Daniel Frey, Joseph Emmert and Samuel Lehman, nominated for this business.

Art. 8. How is it considered, when a brother of another district is solicited to preach a funeral and fails to attend, and the brethren who reside in the district attend and preach the funeral, and afterward the elder, who is a relative of the deceased, has the funeral preached over again?

Considered, that elders ought to be careful not to wound the feelings of their fellow-laborers by sending for others to do their work over again.

Art. 9. How is it considered, where there is a church with a bishop and two speakers, one authorized to baptize, etc., and the other not, and a case of difficulty occurs between two members and is brought before the church, those three ministers being present, but the two first, being relatives to the parties, they authorize the third to attend to the case and present it before the church; the question is, Would it be considered legal?

Considered legal.

Art. 10. Is it agreeable with the gospel to make public collections at public meetings, before the world, for our laboring brethren?

Considered not agreeable to the gospel to hold such collections, before the world, for the above purpose.

Art. 11. Is it becoming for a brother, especially an ordained brother, to have strings of bells on his horses, in sleighing?

Considered not becoming, unless where it is required by law to prevent accidents, and cannot be avoided.

Art. 12. If a brother is sued by a member of the world, may he appear and show his cause. If so, how far may he proceed with the law?

Considered, that he may; but if judgment is given against him he should proceed no further.

Art. 13. If a brother is sued for an unpaid debt, and it being out of his power to attend, yet judgment is given against him, may he take an appeal to court for a greater or less amount?

Considered, that in such cases brethren have a right to a hearing to bring matters to light; yet in all such cases brethren should ask counsel of the church to avoid difficulties to which they might subject themselves by taking their own course.



Art. 14. The committee appointed at last Annual Meeting to visit and confer with the far Western brethren, or a committee of them, to investigate the differences in doctrine and practice existing between them and us, submitted the following report:

"May 8, 1856, We, the brethren who constitute the committee appointed by the German Baptist Church, at our last Annual Meeting, to visit the Western brethren who recognize Bro. George Wolfe, of Illinois, as their bishop, by the grace and favor of God were permitted to meet at their meeting-house, where we were received on the most friendly and Christian-like terms, and after different queries were proposed for our deliberation, the three (or four) following being considered the most important, we proceed to make our report accordingly, as follows:

"First. The question concerning the reality of a devil was considered, and after comparing opinions and sentiments on the subject of the reality of such a being, and his nature, we agreed upon the following view: That the Scriptures recognize a devil, or an evil spirit, that manifests itself in the flesh.

"Second. On the doctrine of universal salvation, which denies punishment hereafter, we cordially agreed with Bro. Wolfe that all men shall receive hereafter according to the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or bad.

"Third. On the subject of feet-washing, Bro. Wolfe is firm in the opinion that one person should both wash and wipe the feet of a number of brethren, and then another, and so on, until all are washed; but he is willing to conform to the practice of the brethren in general, when in communion meeting with them, and begs for forbearance on the part of the brethren in general, until they shall all come to see alike.

"Fourth. Bro. Wolfe is likewise strongly of the opinion that no time should be spent between the eating of the supper and the breaking of bread (the communion) but, that the whole ceremony should be prosecuted without intermission or delay.

"It is the sincere desire of Bro. Wolfe that, however these sentiments may clash with the general practice of the brethren, they may not be considered a sufficient cause why they should not be received in communion and fellowship with the brethren; with which views we, the committee, unanimously agree, and present this our report to the brethren in general council met, for their deliberation and concurrence.

"Signed by David Hardman, J. H. Umstad, J. H. Tracey, A. Moss, John Metzger, S. Lehman, C. Long."



Art. 15. Can a brother, or one that calls himself one, be a witness in church matters, without bringing a certificate of membership from the church whence he came?

Considered, that members should always have letters of membership, or be known as full members.

Art. 16. A request for the Yearly Meeting in 1858 in the Wabash Valley, Indiana.

Granted, unless unforeseen providences should prevent it.

Art. 17. How far may brethren go in trading or trafficking without transgressing the limits of the gospel, and what is to be done with brethren who will not comply with the counsel of the church in such cases?

Regarding the first point, considered dangerous, and brethren should not engage in it; as to the latter point, see Matt. 18: 17

Art. 18. How are we to hold a brother and sister who lived together for some years in lawful matrimony, but not very agreeably, and now they are separated—the brother living with his children in Iowa, and the sister with her friends in Ohio?

The church or churches where such members live should investigate the matter, and judge according to the gospel and the circumstances or facts in the case, in the fear of the Lord.

Art. 19. Would it not be nearer the Word to have the supper prepared and on the table before commencing to wash feet?

Referred to Minutes of 1849, Art. 19.

Art. 20. Is it the rule and order among the brethren to forward a brother to baptize at the same time he is put in the ministry?

Answer, No.

Art. 21. How is it considered, when a branch of a church separates itself from the main body, forwards its ministers without a bishop being present, and pretends to act independent of the counsel of the church and the Yearly Meeting?

Considered, that such proceedings are wrong, and highly dangerous, so that love induces us to charge a committee to visit that church and branch.

Art. 22. A letter from Virginia urging that this Yearly Meeting devise a plan how the church could fulfill the command of the Savior (Matt. 18: 19) more effectually, so that the article 8, on our Minutes of 1852, should not remain a dead letter.



This meeting recommends the subject to the serious consideration of all the churches.

Art. 23. A proposal for forming districts of five, six, or more adjoining churches, for the purpose of meeting jointly at least once a year, settling difficulties, etc., and thus lessening the business of our general Yearly Meeting.

We believe this plan to be a good one, if carried out in the fear of the Lord.

Art. 24. If a man shall put away his wife for the cause of fornication—procuring a bill of divorcement, and marrying another—has he committed the sin of adultery, or could he be received into the church, all the parties still living, if he in all other respects brings forth fruits meet for repentance?

After a lengthy discussion, this matter was referred to the next Yearly Meeting.

Art. 25. Would it be proper to reconsider the 7th query of 1851, concerning the putting up of lightning-rods?

We would not advise brethren to put up those rods, but that the brethren should bear with one another in love in such matters.

Art. 26. Would it be proper to reconsider the 6th query of 1848? Seeing it is admitted that sisters should wear a covering, what should that covering be, according to the gospel?

We are satisfied, with our ancient brethren, that the plain cap, worn by our dear aged sisters, is a covering, as required by the Scriptures according to Paul.

Art. 27. Does Christian fellowship, according to the gospel, forbid, or require, or leave it optional for brethren, when meeting in cities, towns, or at public gatherings, when extending the salutation of the hand, to accompany the same with the salutation of the holy kiss?

Considered optional.

Art. 28. A request from the church in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, to have our dear brother, James Quinter, ordained for the office of an overseer at this Yearly Meeting.

Concluded, that inasmuch as this brother had not been able to be present here, Brethren Joseph Showalter, of Stark, and Henry Kurtz, of Mahoning, Ohio, be appointed as a committee to attend to this business.

Art. 29. In relation to the brethren in Germany.



It appears from all the documents and information presented to us, that they differ from us on baptism, feet-washing, and other points of faith and practice; hence, until we have a better evidence of their agreement with us in sentiment, and of their willingness to receive the doctrine of Christ as we have received it, we cannot acknowledge them yet as brethren of the same faith with us, and inasmuch as they expressly refuse to accept of our charity, it should be reserved for future use. The letter of these brethren to be published in the "Gospel Visitor."

Art. 30. Request from the church on Owl Creek, Knox County, Ohio, for a committee to settle some difficulties.

Concluded, that Brethren George Hoke, Elias Dicky, Jacob Gerber, H. D. Davy, and J. P. Ebersole should be that committee.

Art. 31. Request from Hunterdon County, New Jersey, for a committee to investigate certain matters in the church there.

Considered, that Brethren Andrew Spanogle and Peter Long, of Pennsylvania, and John Kline, John Wine, and Martin Miller, of Virginia, should visit that church, and try to settle their difficulties.

Art. 32. In regard to the still existing difficulties in the Coventry Church, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

We could see no other remedy, in the present lamentable aspect of things, than that either the whole church unite sincerely to submit to the advice given by the Yearly Meeting, and the committee sent there in 1854, or to establish that part of the church which is so inclined as a separate body or church, and in order to accomplish either a true reconciliation or peaceable separation, the last-named committee is also appointed for this business, and likewise for that on Indian Creek, referred to in article 21, above.

Art. 33. By request of Bro. Geo. Hoke, who wishes to resign his agency of the Garber charity fund.

It was concluded that Bro. Elias Dicky should take charge of the same.

Art. 34. An appeal from a number of members in Story County, Iowa, to send brethren to them for the purpose of organizing a church.

Left to those ordained elders who contemplate a journey to that new and growing state.

Art. 35. A number of papers were handed in concerning difficulties in Covington church, Miami County, Ohio, which contain as many queries as would occupy a meeting for several days, and inasmuch as the settlement of the difficulties has been tried again



and again, by able and impartial committees, and agreed to by the church, yet without the desired effect; also, inasmuch as said church is excessively large and numerous, we would advise the church to be divided into two districts, hoping and praying that this may issue in a peaceable settlement and reconciliation. For this purpose the following brethren were appointed as a committee: George Shively, James Tracey, Jacob Miller, John Metzger, George Hoover, Jacob Metzger, David Hardman, all of Indiana, and Peter Nead and Daniel Miller, of Ohio.

Art. 36. A request from the church in Highland County, Ohio, for a committee to visit said church.

Granted, and the committee last named also appointed for this business.

Art. 37. A renewed invitation from our beloved brethren in Washington County, Maryland, for the next Yearly Meeting, on Pentecost, 1857, to be held at their meeting-house, where the Yearly Meeting in 1838 had taken place, eight miles south of Hagerstown, and thirteen miles northeast of Kearneysville, Jefferson County, Virginia, at both of which places brethren traveling by public conveyance will be able to procure conveyance to the place of meeting, as there will be arrangements made accordingly by the resident brethren. Brethren at a distance, desiring further information, by addressing Elder Daniel Reichard, sen., College of St. James, Washington County, Maryland, will be promptly and cheerfully attended to. This invitation was gratefully accepted, and hence our next Yearly Meeting is appointed to take place on Pentecost, 1857, God willing, at the brethren's meeting-house above designated, in Washington County, Maryland.

Art. 38. Brothers Henry Kurtz and James Quinter were appointed as a committee to enter into arrangements with the railroad companies for next Annual Meeting.

Signed by the following brethren: George Hoke, George Shively, John Leatherman, Jacob Long, Peter Nead, James Tracey, Joseph Emmert, John Berkley, Andrew Spanogle, John Kline, Joseph Arnold, Daniel Miller.

Henry Kurtz, Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1857.

Manor Church, Washington County, Md.

Public worship commenced on Lord's-day morning, May 31st; and, to afford the large concourse of people present as favorable



an opportunity of hearing the gospel preached as possible, there was preaching at three different places. At two of those places the preaching was all in the English language, and at the other place in the English and German.

The council meeting was opened on Monday morning, with devotional exercises. The standing committee was then appointed, and it immediately proceeded to prepare business for the meeting. While the standing committee was receiving the delegates, appointing the sub-committees, etc., there was public preaching.

The sub-committees commenced reporting on Monday afternoon, and the following queries were reported and answered, as herein stated:

Article 1. Concerning the use of ardent spirits among the brethren.

Considered, that every brother that is intrusted with the oversight of a church, should exert his influence, by example and precept, to induce all the members of his congregation to abstain altogether from the use of ardent spirits, as an article of luxury or as a drink, and not to give it to working hands to drink, admitting it only for medical and mechanical purposes. The same advice is given to all the officers, in all the churches, throughout our whole brotherhood.

Art. 2. Is it according to the gospel to have the supper on the table at the time the feet are washed?

Answer: Inasmuch as it is not expressly declared that Jesus rose from the table, he may probably have risen from a prepared supper, and as the brethren have the supper prepared before they proceed to the washing of feet, with their past practices in relation to these things we are satisfied.

Art. 3. Is it prudent to publish fictitious names to articles published in public prints?

Answer: It is not prudent for brethren to do so.

Art. 4. Does that part of the eighteenth chapter of the gospel according to Matthew, which is read to applicants for baptism, cover all cases of trespasses and offenses, public and private?

Answer: No; it does not contain all the divine law upon the subject of offenses, but it is the best rule to pursue with offending members.

Art. 5. When the churches send messengers to represent them in the Annual Council, should they not have their traveling expenses, to and from the place of meeting, defrayed by the churches which send them?



Answer: Yes, they should, if they require it.

Art. 6. As the subject of slavery has often been before the Annual Meeting, and as it has always been considered that no brother can, according to the gospel, hold a fellow-creature in bondage (to which we say, Amen), what, then, is to be done with brethren who do not observe the advice given by the Yearly Meeting, in this or in any other respect?

Answer: That such churches or members should be visited, and if not willing to liberate their slaves, they should be dealt with according to the gospel manner of dealing with all gross transgressions.

Art. 7. A request for a committee to visit the church in Monroe County, Iowa.

The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed on the committee: Samuel Lehman, Christ. Long, Geo. Butterbaugh, Dan. Frey, John Metzger, Sam. Garver, Hiel Hamilton, and John P. Ebersole.

Art. 8. The twenty-fourth query on the minutes of 1856 being brought forward, it was

Concluded best for such churches as have occasion to act on such cases, to act in the fear of the Lord, according to their knowledge of the cases.

Art. 9. Why do not the sisters break the bread, and pass the cup to each other, in the same manner as the brethren do, at the communion?

Answer: Man being the head of the woman, and it having been the practice of the church, from time immemorial, for the officiating brethren to break the bread to the sisters, we know of no scriptural reason for making a change in our practice.

Art. 10. How is it considered for brethren, and especially ministering brethren, to adorn their children with ear-rings, breast-pins, finger rings, and jewelry in general, and send them from home to have them taught music, and to procure pianos for them?

Answer: Brethren should not do so.

Art. 11. How is it considered for brethren to have Sabbath schools, conducted by the brethren?

Answer: Inasmuch as we are commanded to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, we know of no scripture which condemns Sabbath schools, if conducted in gospel order, and if they are made the means of teaching scholars a knowledge of the Scriptures.



Art. 12. How is it considered, if a poor brother becomes insane, and void of all reason, so much so as to become dangerous, and very troublesome, and a place can scarcely be obtained for him in a private family upon any condition, a poor-house being in the county, are the brethren bound to keep him, according to the gospel, or are they permitted to deliver him to the trustees of the poor, to take charge of him?

Answer: A member of the church should not be put into the poor-house, if it can possibly be avoided.

Art. 13. What right have any two or three churches to reconsider the action of another church, and that without any representation from the church upon whose decision they sit in judgment, and then reinstate members which said church had excluded?

Answer: We consider that one branch of the church has no right to restore a member to his place in the church, when he had been excluded by another branch of the church, without the concurrence of the church which excluded him.

Art. 14. How is it considered, if ministering brethren take as much as ten dollars, as a fee for performing the marriage ceremony; and does the gospel allow ministers a fee under any circumstances?

Answer: The gospel does not allow ministers to take a fee.

Art. 15. Is it really considered a sin, according to the Gospel, for members of the church to have their likenesses taken?

Answer: Members of the church should not have their likenesses taken.

Art. 16. Inasmuch, as it is considered, by the brethren, that we have no right, according to the gospel, to use the law in collecting debts, or to sue at law, would not a brother who has done so, or may do so, fall into the judgment of the church?

Answer: This subject has frequently been discussed in our Annual Meetings, and we cannot, we think, come to a better conclusion than our dear brethren came to in 1852; and as no brother should be his own judge in this matter, the brethren, very wisely, added the proviso, that in all cases the church should be consulted, and if the council is disregarded, those who disregard it will fall into the judgment of the church.

Art. 17. A request from the Clover Creek Church, in Blair County, Pennsylvania, for the Annual Meeting in 1860.



The request was favorably received, and will be considered at a future meeting.

Art. 18. A request for a committee to visit the Swatara Church, in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania.

The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed on the committee: Peter Long, Andrew Spanogle, Sam. Harley, John Glock, John Holsinger, and George Brumbaugh.

Art. 19. What are the views of the present Annual Council in regard to the contemplated school, that was alluded to, some time since, in the "Gospel Visitor?"

Answer: It is conforming to the world. The Apostle Paul says: "Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth."

Art. 20. Do not those administrators of baptism, who make the candidates for baptism renounce all the world require too much of the candidates, since we all have more or less to do with the world? Would it not be more proper to require of them to renounce only what is contrary to the gospel?

Answer: The third article of the Minutes of 1848, contains the proper renunciation of the world. The passage in that article, referred to here, reads thus: "Dost thou renounce all the sinful pleasures of this world?"

Art. 21. Would it not be better, in deciding upon all subjects brought before our Annual Meetings, to refer first to the Word of God, instead of first referring to the old minutes?

Answer: We think it always safest to refer first to the Word of God.

Art. 22. Is it agreeable to the gospel for brethren to teach singing-schools?

Answer: We consider it best for the brethren not to teach singing-school on the Sabbath or at night.

Art. 23. If persons, who are not members of the church, become subscribers to the "Gospel Visitor," should the editors send the minutes of the Annual Meeting to such?

Answer: We think it not wrong to send the Minutes of Annual Meeting to all who desire them, and pay for them.

Art. 24. Would it not be best for churches, in selecting delegates to represent them at the Annual Council, to make choice of one deacon, or of one lay member, to serve as a delegate in connection with one ministering brother, and thus relieve the



ministry from the responsible position of being the exclusive advisers of the churches?

Answer: We think it should be left to the churches to select such members for delegates as they may think proper.

Art. 25. It is requested that the ninth article of the minutes of 1855 be again taken into consideration, because of great difficulties and dissatisfaction which have arisen from the same. It seems, according to that article, to be considered an error to teach remission of sins before baptism. This seems difficult and dark, and we desire a better explanation of the matter. If we receive no more light to satisfy our members, and even our teachers, we have fears of serious troubles in the brotherhood.

Answer: We do not think that we can give more satisfaction than is given in the ninth article of the minutes of 1855, as the sentiments there expressed seem to be in accordance with the gospel, and we, therefore, adopt that answer.

Art. 26. A request for a committee to visit the church in Clarion County, Pennsylvania, to settle difficulties.

The request was granted, and the following brethren appointed on the committee: Andrew Spanogle, Abraham Rothrock, David Meyers, Joseph Hanawalt, and John Glock.

Art. 27. A request for a committee to visit the Ridge Church, in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed on the committee: Christian Keefer, Isaac Pfoutz, Jacob Sayler, Philip Boyle, and Geo. Beer.

Art. 28. A request for a committee to visit the Tulpehocken Church, in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, to settle difficulties existing there.

The request was granted, and the same committee appointed to visit this church that was appointed to visit the Swatara church, in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania. (See Art. 18.)

Art. 29. The Marsh Creek Church, in Adams County, Pennsylvania, requests a reconsideration of Art. 39, of the minutes of 1853, relating to the salutation of the kiss, at baptism, the communion, and at ordinations.

Answer: It is neither expedient, nor desirable, to make any change in the aforesaid article of the minutes.

Art. 30. Is it consistent with the gospel for brethren to serve in the capacity of any of the civil officers, under our government;



and is there any material difference, as to state, county, or township officers?

Answer: We consider it wrong for brethren to accept of any office, which requires them to administer an oath, or to use physical force, in performing the duties of that office.

Art. 31. Would it not be advisable to change the time of holding our Annual Meetings, as Whitsuntide comes too early some seasons, especially in some parts of the country?

Answer: We judge it best to make no change in the time of holding our Annual Council.

Art. 32. If a brother removes from one church to another, and is received by the church to which he removes as a full member, by certificate or otherwise, and afterward a difficulty arises with him in the church in which he formerly resided, is his case to be tried in the church into which he removed, or is he to have his trial in the church in which the difficulty originated?

Answer: It is judged proper that his case be referred back to the church from which he removed.

Art. 33. A request from the Elk Creek Church, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, for the Annual Meeting in 1859.

The request was favorably received, but no definite decision made.

Art. 34. A request from the Limestone Church, in Washington County, Tennessee, for the Annual Meeting, as soon as convenient, if suitable, in 1860.

The request was favorably received but no answer given.

Art. 35. A request for a committee to visit the Ashland Church, in Ashland County, Ohio.

The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed: J. P. Ebersole, Joseph Showalter, Henry Davy, Christian Wise, and David Fackler.

Art. 36. A renewal of the request from the Bachelor Run Church, Indiana, for the Annual Meeting of 1858. This request was thankfully received, and granted. Consequently, our next Yearly Meeting will be held, the Lord willing, on Pentecost, 1858, with the brethren of Bachelor Run Church, Carroll County, Indiana. The place of meeting will be the Bachelor Run meeting-house, ten miles southeast of Delphi. Persons traveling by public conveyance will go to Delphi.



Signed by John H. Umstad, Andrew Spanogle, Christ. Keefer, John Wine, Abraham Neff, J. P. Ebersole, George Hoke, John Metzger, Abraham Moss, Joseph Emmert, Samuel Garver.

D. P. Sayler, Clerk.

James Quinter, Assistant Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1858.

Bachelor Run Church, Carroll County, Ind.

The number of brethren assembled on Saturday being very large, there was a meeting for worship held in the afternoon. On Lord's-day, in order to give the people the best opportunities the circumstances would permit for hearing the Word of the Lord preached, divine service was performed at different places. On Monday morning the council meeting was organized by appointing the standing committee and secretaries. The delegates then presented themselves, and the papers addressed to the council were received. There were represented at this council-meeting one hundred and twenty-two churches. The delegates from these churches were divided into fifteen committees, and to them were given the papers designed to come before the council, in order that they might report upon them. On Tuesday morning after the devotional exercises were performed, the committees began to report, and it was ascertained that the following queries were before the council. They were considered in the fear of God, and answered as herein stated.

Article 1. Can a person be received into the church who is uncle to his wife? Or, do the brethren think the gospel will not allow such a person becoming a member of the church?

Considered, that if he is uncle to his wife by marriage, he may be received, if by blood relation, he should not be.

Art. 2. Is it according to the gospel of Christ for brethren, especially bishops, in speaking on the final destinies of the ungodly, to preach publicly that they shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and privately teach that all will be restored everlastingly, whether they know God and obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ or not? And if asked the question by an alien whether the devil himself will be saved make no reply?

Answer: We think brethren should be careful not to contradict privately what they preach publicly.



Art. 3. Is it consistent to preach eternal punishment, and at the same time to peddle Winchester's Dialogues on Restoration? Tell us how it is.

Answer: If a brother preaches eternal punishment, it would be inconsistent for him to distribute Winchester's Dialogues on the Restoration.

Art. 4. Is it according to the gospel of Christ in paying our annual visit, to collect from twenty to thirty of the brethren together in one place, and then the bishops pay the visit to them openly when they are all together, and then send them out two or three together and visit those that were not thus collected? Or, is the duty restricted to the visiting brethren exclusively, and should the visit be made from house to house?

Answer: As we have no direct rule in the gospel for making the visit, we think it best for visiting brethren to go from house to house.

Art. 5. Is it required of those who are so unfortunate as to have their companions put in avoidance, not to accompany with them as man and wife?

Considered, that as the apostle says we are not to eat with them, we think this prohibition is sufficient.

Art. 6. How are we to proceed with members who come to our love-feasts, from other congregations, and who when they leave home are dressed after the gay fashions of the world, and during the day change their dress several times, and put on in the evening a plainer dress to go to the communion table? Is it enough simply to admonish such members, or should the church in which they live be informed? And must we indeed commune with such members, when some of the members in the church are grieved by such conduct?

Considered, that it is wrong for members to do so, but they should not be debarred from the privilege of communing until the brethren of the district in which they live have been informed, and until they have been reproved, and afterward continue disobedient.

Art. 7. What is to be done when a man puts away his wife for the cause of adultery and obtains a bill of divorcement, and marries again; the church not knowing of this, nor he that the church disallows of such for some two years after he has become a member.

Answer: We have not light enough at present to give any advice different from what the brethren have formerly given.



Art. 8. Does the gospel convey the idea that the public, practical use of the spiritual gifts, such as prayer, exhortation, teaching, doctrine, and prophesying, etc., are alone confined to the chosen officers of the church, or does it extend that privilege to every member, especially male members of the church, if the influence of the spirit of Christ so dictate to him?

Answer: As it regards prayer, it is considered that private members may pray in public, if liberty be given by elder brethren. But exhortation, teaching, and prophesying seem to be duties and privileges belonging to the officers of the church. (See 1 Cor. 14: 32.)

Art. 9. Would it not be advisable for the Annual Meeting to make a form for the brethren to perform matrimony?

Answer: It is not thought advisable.

Art. 10. How is it considered when a difficulty arises between husband and wife, and the wife depart from her husband, is it the duty of the husband to pursue the course prescribed in Matt. 18: 15-17?

Answer: We consider it is.

Art. 11. Is it according to the gospel to expel a brother from his office, whether deacon or minister, and yet leave him stand as a member?

Answer: We have a right—according to the gospel; inasmuch as he is put into office by the council of the church, by the council of the church the office can be taken from him. 1 Tim. 3.

Art. 12. Is it agreeable to the gospel for a church to grant the privilege to a member to do certain things, and at the same time debar him from the communion for so doing?

Answer: That no church, according to the gospel, has a right to do so.

Art. 13. If the churches demand committees by the Annual Meeting, to visit them to settle difficulties among them, would it be advisable for said churches to defray the expenses of said committees?

Answer: The churches calling committees should defray the traveling expenses.

Art. 14. Would it not be advisable for those who wish to have the minutes, to pay a few more cents to the publishers and have



them sent in a sealed letter, more privately than they heretofore have been sent?

Referred to the Annual Meeting of 1857. (We think it not wrong to send the minutes of the Annual Meeting to all who desire them and pay for them. Minutes of 1857, Art. 23.)

Art. 15. Would it not be agreeable to the gospel, and the order of the brethren, when the standing committee appoints committees to go to other churches to settle difficulties, to authorize such brethren that circumstances will not permit to attend such council, to send some other ordained brethren in their places, so that there will be a full committee?

Considered, that if it is the duty of such brethren, that cannot go, to appoint others in their places, that the committee may be full.

Art. 16. Is it right for a brother, that is a deacon, to give out a hymn and sing it, ten or fifteen minutes before the time appointed for commencing meeting, when the house, or room, is full of people, or is it more advisable to remain silent till the time for commencing meeting arrives?

Considered, that we see no impropriety in singing, when, in the estimation of the church, it is done to its own edification, and to the honor of God.

Art. 17. Is it right for a speaker to sing a hymn, or a part of a hymn, at the time of the communion, when the wine is passing round?

Considered, it is right to do so.

Art. 18. Whereas, we are aware that the decision of the last Annual Meeting, in relation to the subject presented in the fourteenth query of said meeting, has given a great deal of dissatisfaction, and is, to a great extent disregarded, thus bringing the decisions of the Annual Meeting into disrespect; we therefore recommend that this meeting reconsider that subject, and if the decision of the last meeting is sustained, it is desirable that some scriptural authority should be given for it, as should be done in all cases. Reconsidered, and concluded to adopt the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1848.

(Considered, that this meeting can not advise brethren to take a fee, and would leave it, as a matter of conscience, to the ministering brother, with the advice of the church in which he lives. Minutes of 1848, Art. 9.)

Art. 19. What is the ancient and established order of the



brethren in advancing speakers to the second degree of office? Are they received with hand and kiss?

Considered, that the proper way is to receive them with hand and kiss.

Art. 20. Is it right, according to the gospel, to enforce the law in any case whatever, and if so, where is the gospel authority?

Concluded to adopt the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1857. (This subject has frequently been discussed in our Annual Meetings, and we cannot, we think, come to a better conclusion than our dear brethren came to in 1852; and as no brother should be his own judge in this matter, the brethren, very wisely, added the proviso, that, in all cases, the church should be consulted, and if its council is disregarded, those who disregard it will fall into the judgment of the church. Minutes of 1857, Art. 16.)

Art. 21. Is it right, according to the gospel, for brethren to purchase notes from brethren, or others, and shave them at 15 per cent or more?

Considered, that it is not according to the gospel for brethren to do so.

Art. 22. What should be done with a brother who holds the council of the Annual Meeting in disrespect, and who speaks lightly and disrespectfully of it?

Considered, that he should be kindly admonished to do so no more, and if he will not hear the admonition, he should be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 23. What does the Annual Meeting think of taking the preparatory steps for producing a new hymn-book?

Referred to the next Annual Meeting.

Art. 24. When a church stands in need of speakers or deacons, should the bishop make it known to the members before, or only on the day of the election?

Considered, that we leave the churches to do as they have been accustomed to do in relation to this subject.

Art. 25. In the phrase, "Anoint thy head" (Matt. 6: 17), is the anointing literal? and, if so, with what is the head to be anointed?

Answer: We think the anointing is literal, and that it is to be done with oil; but we think, when it is observed, it should be done in a way so that it will not attract public notice.



Art. 26. How is it considered if a brother, who is a minister, would make appointments some distance from home, where there is an organized church, and would hold meetings, and baptize, without referring to the brethren that had the oversight there of the church, when the brethren live in the immediate neighborhood, and might be consulted conveniently? And if this is wrong, how would such a brother be dealt with?

Considered, that when ministering brethren go out of their own church, to labor and to administer the ordinances of the gospel in another district, they should do so with the consent of the laborers of the district into which they go, when it can be conveniently obtained. And brethren who do not adhere to this counsel, do not labor to promote peace and love, and should be admonished by the church.

Art. 27. Would it not be well for the brethren to come upon some plan to acquaint all the bishops and housekeepers of the various branches of the church with the rules and regulations concluded upon by the General Council for the more perfect union and prosperity of the church? And if these rules and regulations be violated by a minister, with some of the members composing his district, should they not fall into the hands of the brethren of the adjacent districts, as offenders, and be dealt with as such; and if the above should be considered expedient, what plan should be devised to carry it into effect?

Answer: We are fully satisfied that the means long had in practice by the brethren (namely, the minutes of our Annual Meeting), are sufficient to give the teachers and housekeepers, and members in general, the decisions of our Annual Council for the perfecting of love and union throughout the brotherhood; and if it should so happen that a housekeeper, with a part, or all, of the members of his district, could not be satisfied with the decisions of the Annual Council, as we were advised and instructed by our beloved elder brethren, and unanimously concurred in at the Annual Meeting, held in 1850, in Montgomery County, Ohio, they should bear with the Annual Council, and with one another, until the next Annual Meeting, and then bring their grievances to the Annual Council where they proceeded from, and, we believe, full satisfaction will be obtained.

Art. 28. Is it consistent with the Word of God for the followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to make arrangements with railroad companies to obtain the benefit of half-fare, in going to and returning from the Yearly Meeting?

Considered, that it is right for brethren to avail themselves of the privilege offered by the railroad companies, but we would advise all our brethren to comply with the rules of the companies,



and if a misunderstanding should occur, not to contend, but rather pay full fare.

Art. 29. Is it right to give liberty to other denominations to preach funeral sermons in our meeting-houses?

Answer: It is right, especially if preached on the day of the funeral.

Art. 30. How is it considered if a brother has a note against another poor brother, who cannot pay, and the brother who has the note sells it to his son, who is not a member of the church, and he collects the debt by law, and causes the poor brother's property to be sold, the brother who sold the note justifying himself in doing as he did; what is to be done in such a case?

Considered, that the brother who did so, committed a great fault, and that he should make restitution to the poor brother to the satisfaction of the church.

Art. 31. Is it contrary to the gospel for brethren to hold meetings for a number of days in succession, in one place, in order to preach the pure Word of God, and to administer the ordinance of baptism to those who believe the Word and receive it?

Considered, not contrary to the gospel, if the believer is proceeded with according to the gospel and the order of the brethren, as given by the Annual Meeting of 1848, Art. 3.

Art. 32. If any man be in Christ, and Christ in him, can he institute and prosecute a process in law against any person or persons, and he all the time still continue in Christ, and Christ in him?

Considered, that he cannot, especially if gone into without the counsel of the church in which he lives.

Art. 33. Is it according to the Word of God to make use of beef instead of lamb, in eating the Lord's Supper?

Answer: It is.

Art. 34. Whereas, there is a diversity of opinion among the brethren concerning the mode of celebrating the Lord's Supper; we, therefore, wish the brethren, at the Annual Meeting, to devise some plan, that we may all be alike in our practice.

Considered, that inasmuch as the difference is not stated, we recommend the practice heretofore recommended.

Art. 35. How is it considered when ministering brethren have preached at meetings, and visiting brethren rise to their feet to



bear testimony? Or, which is the proper order, for deacons to rise or keep their seats in exhorting?

Considered, that it is not advisable, when two or three ministering brethren have preached, for deacons to rise and speak; but if there is but one speaker, or if there are none present, it is not inconsistent with the order of the brethren for a deacon to rise and exhort.

Art. 36. Is it right to use, at our communion meetings, the article of wine frequently used, and known by those who are judges of the article to be an adulterated article, and hence cannot properly be called the fruit of the vine?

Considered, that it is advisable to procure the purest article.

Art. 37. How is it considered when one brother preaches that there is no baptism of the Holy Ghost now, but that it is only the gift of the Holy Ghost which believers receive, while another brother prays for the Lord to baptize with the Holy Ghost?

Answer: We think it is best for no brother to preach that there is no baptism of the Holy Ghost now, but in praying we should pray for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Art. 38. How is it considered if a brother makes an assignment, and how shall he be dealt with?

Answer: That it is not right for a brother to make an assignment, with the purpose to defraud his creditors; and if he should do so, he should be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 39. How should brethren proceed, after preaching, relative to getting members to join the church? Shall the preacher, while singing a hymn, give an invitation to those who wish to join the church to come forward, or shall he leave it to them to make their own application?

Considered, that it is best to let them make their own application, as in Acts 2: 37, and 16: 30.

Art. 40. Is it according to the gospel for brethren to hold what are called social meetings, and to give liberty to all present to rise and speak, so that members of other societies feel themselves at liberty to admonish?

Considered, that social meetings should be strictly held in order, and to give liberty to all present to rise on their feet and admonish is not in order.

Art. 41. Inasmuch as there has been great confusion in



various branches of the church, during the past year, relative to the manner of taking in members, as this has been done in many different ways, would brethren not consider it prudent, and consistent with the gospel, to have a unity of practice throughout the church, and, if so, what shall that practice be; shall it be the order laid down in the minutes of 1848, or will the brethren draft a new order?

Considered, that we will continue the order laid down in the minutes of 1848, which is as follows:

"First, the applicant to be examined by two or more brethren; then the case to be brought before the church council, before whom the applicant is to declare his agreement with us, in regard to the principles of being defenseless, non-swearing, and not conforming to the world; then in meeting, or at the water, to read from Matt. 18: 10-22, in public, the candidates being asked if they will be governed by those gospel rules; then prayer at the water, and in the water the following questions to be asked:

"Question: Dost thou believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that he has brought from heaven a saving gospel? Answer: Yea.

"Question: Dost thou willingly renounce Satan, with all his pernicious ways, and all the sinful pleasures of this world? Answer: Yea.

Question: "Dost thou covenant with God, in Christ Jesus, to be faithful until death? Answer: Yea.

"Upon this, thy confession of faith, which thou hast made before God and these witnesses, thou shalt, for the remission of sins, be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. After baptism, while in the water, the administrator shall lay his hands on the head of the candidate, and offer up a prayer to God in his behalf, and then the member is to be received, by hand and kiss, into church fellowship." Minutes of 1848, Art. 3.

Art. 42. How is it considered, if a member moves off some distance, and be absent awhile, and then return on a visit, and then, while at the place at which he formerly resided, conducting himself either becoming or unbecoming a follower of Christ, the church gives him permission to exhort or preach, by taking silence for consent?

Considered, not according to the order of the brethren to do so.

Art. 43. How is it considered if an individual moves out the fence of a brother's field, and the brother sends the sheriff and brings a suit of trespass; his case is brought before the church, and one bishop, with the teachers and deacons and other members, decide that the brother has done wrong, but the oldest bishop,



with the other members, say that he had no other way to do, and when the voice was taken there was an equal number approving and disapproving the brother's course?

Considered, that no member, or members, has a right to put the law in force against his fellow-man, without first taking the counsel of the church.

Art. 44. Is the gospel itself sufficient to preserve a union of practice throughout the brotherhood?

Considered, that the gospel, with the practice or order consistent with the gospel, will preserve the union of the brotherhood.

Art. 45. Have a few members of a church the privilege to appoint a church meeting, and call for the assistance of brethren in other districts, without the council of the church, or of the elders the church?

Considered, that brethren have no right to do so without counseling the elder brethren and the church.

Art. 46. Should the church receive a person that had been living in a state of matrimony awhile, and apparently did not live in peace; then, leaving his companion, gets married to another one, and, after some time, leaving the second one for the same reason he left the first, and while his first companion was yet living?

Considered, that according to the gospel, such a person should not be received into the church.

Art. 47. How is it considered, in the case of a brother who has been expelled from the church, and then takes up with a woman that has a husband living, and lives with her fifteen years; then her husband dies, and the two get lawfully married, and now he has made application to be taken into the church, and we desire the Yearly Meeting to give counsel what to do?

Considered, that he may be received, provided he brings forth fruit meet for repentance.

Art. 48. How is it considered when brethren preach and argue that there is no difference between the soul and the body, and hell and the grave, and that there is no knowledge between death and the resurrection, and no punishment after death, but that the wicked will be immediately destroyed or annihilated?

Answer: Such brethren should be sharply reprov'd of their errors, and if they will not hear the church, we cannot hold such as brethren, much less as preachers.



Art. 49. A brother buys a farm that is sold by executors, who are not members of the church, and fails to make payment according to contract, the heirs being members of the church, who, after waiting a long time and being in great need of the money, and living over one hundred miles distant from the brother who bought the farm, receive a letter from him stating that he will pay them \$500, if they will throw off the interest. The heirs, being unwilling to do so, send word to their executors to collect the money by law. Are the heirs now under obligation to pay the cost of collection?

Considered, that they are not under such obligation.

Art. 50. Is it agreeable to the gospel to hold a protracted meeting, say for one week or ten days in succession?

Answer: As to the phrase "protracted meetings," we know nothing of it in the gospel; but as touching the frequency of the saints meetings together, we find no limits in the gospel, so they are held in the order of the house of God.

Art. 51. We desire to know whether the Lord has commanded us to have a school besides our common schools, such as the one contemplated in the "Gospel Visitor"? If we are, ought we not to have it soon? And if it is not commanded of the Lord, ought we to have one? And is it right to contend for or against such an institution publicly through the press, since our different views may become a stumbling-block before the world? And if it is once decided, ought we not to keep forever silent about it?

Answer: Concerning the school proposed in the "Gospel Visitor," we think we have no right to interfere with an individual enterprise so long as there is no departure from gospel principles.

Art. 52. Is it right for a brother to go about taking likenesses with a Daguerrean apparatus?

Considered, that it is not right. Rom. 1: 23; Deut. 27: 15.

Art. 53. How is it considered when a brother who is forwarded to the Word as a minister of the first degree, attends meetings, makes appointments, or fills such when made by others who are not members of the church without counseling the church, or ordained brethren when there are such in the district where he was chosen?

Considered, that as ministers are the servants of the church, they ought not to do anything contrary to the will of the church, and when it is convenient they should always consult the church.

Art. 54. In case a woman has a husband and has lived with



him in matrimony for a year or longer, and then the husband departs and leaves his wife, nothing being heard of him for four or five years, and said wife then marries a second husband, nothing being still heard of her former husband. Years pass on, say twenty-five or six, she living with the second husband all this time, and having children with him, and nothing is still heard of her first husband. Now, the said husband and wife make application to be received into the church. How shall we proceed in such a case?

Answer: We think they might be received if the church feels satisfied the first husband is not living.

Art. 55. Would it not be well for the standing committee of this Yearly Meeting to appoint a number of intelligent and pious brethren to collect all the minutes that can be obtained of our Yearly Meetings and have them printed in a volume for the use and satisfaction of the churches?

Considered, we think it not advisable to do so.

Art. 56. Is it advisable for ordained brethren to ordain a ministering brother to the office of elder or bishop, who permits his children, even while under lawful age, to wear all manner of jewelry, and to learn instrumental music at boarding schools, etc.?

Considered, not advisable. 1 Tim. 2: 9; 3: 4, 5.

Art. 57. Can the brethren be in full communion with a brother or a communion of brethren, who do not hold a church council in receiving applicants for baptism, and who do not ask those who are baptized to renounce the devil and all the sinful practices of the world or flesh, and who do not practically follow the doctrine of self-denial?

Considered, that we think such cannot be in full communion with us. Acts 10: 47; Prov. 15: 22; 1 John 2: 15-17; Titus 2: 12.

Art. 58. Whereas, there is a strong desire among the brethren in various places to have a more general exertion made on the part of the church to have the truth more universally spread; and, whereas, the subject has been frequently talked of without any definite plan being proposed, we, therefore, have concluded, by way of introduction, to offer the following outlines of a plan, subject, however, to such amendments as may from time to time be thought best; that is, let each state, where there is a respectable number of brethren, form a district; let the brethren there hold



their annual meetings; let each of these divisions have its treasury; let the churches that feel favorable, have their treasury; let the churches be called upon as often as may be necessary to cast in their mite as a free-will offering. Then let these contributions be put into the district treasury, and let the district meeting appoint ministering brethren, say two or more, if necessary (such as are willing to go), to travel through the respective states for one year, their expenses being paid, and such provision made for their families as may be thought necessary. What does the Annual Meeting think of this proposition?

Considered, that we think it not good to adopt this proposition, but we believe it is a subject worthy the serious and prayerful consideration of the brotherhood, and we recommend the brethren to give it such a consideration.

Art. 59. Requests for committees: 1. A request for a committee to visit Conestoga Church, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

The request was granted, and the following brethren constitute the committee: John Glock, Samuel Harley, Jacob Hollinger, Daniel Hollinger and Peter Long.

2. A request for a committee to visit Painter Creek Church, Miami County, Ohio.

The request was granted, and the following brethren constitute the committee: John P. Ebersole, John Metzger, Elias Dicky, George Shively, Jacob Miller, of Portage, David Hardman, of Indiana, George Hoover, Henry Davy and Abraham Moss.

3. A request for a committee to visit the Owl Creek Church, Knox County, Ohio.

The request was granted, and the following brethren constitute the committee: Elias Dicky, Jacob Gerber, Peter Nead, Daniel Miller, John Metzger, and Henry Davy.

Art. 60. Requests for the Annual Meeting: 1. A request from the Nettle Creek Church, Indiana, for the meeting of 1860. 2. A request from the Limestone Church, Washington County, Tennessee, for the meeting in 1860, was renewed, and granted. 3. A request from the Clover Creek Church, Blair County, Pennsylvania, was renewed. 4. A request from the Valley of Virginia for the meeting in 1861. 5. The request from the Elk Creek Church, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, being renewed, was granted. Hence our next Yearly Meeting will be held, the Lord willing, with the brethren in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, on Pentecost, 1859. Johnstown, on the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, the near-



est point on that road, is forty miles from the meeting-place. Cumberland, the nearest point on the Baltimore and Ohio, is twenty-five miles distant. Correspondence can be had with the following brethren in the church where the meeting will be held: John Berkley, Elias K. Beeghly, Daniel Beeghly, and Peter Meyers, Meyers' Mills, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Standing Committee: George Hoke, John Brower, Peter Nead, Daniel Miller, of Ohio; John Berkley, of Pennsylvania; John Kline, Peter Nininger, of Virginia; Isaac Pfoutz, of Maryland; George Shively, John Metzger, John Moyer, of Indiana; John Emmert, of Illinois.

D. P. Saylor, Clerk.

James Quinter, Assistant Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1859.

Elk Creek Church, Somerset County, Pa.

As usual, a large number of persons assembled on Saturday, and a meeting for worship was held in the afternoon. On Lord's-day, the congregation being very large, arrangements were made for having divine service performed at three different places in the immediate vicinity of the place designed for the General Council meeting. These meetings were all well attended, and good attention given to the Word preached.

On Monday morning the council-meeting was organized by appointing the following standing committee: John Kline, Jacob Thomas, Isaac Pfoutz, Daniel P. Sayler, John H. Umstad, Peter Long, John P. Ebersole, Henry Davy, Jacob Miller, John Metzger, Samuel Layman, David Rittenhouse, James Quinter, and John Berkley. Daniel P. Sayler and James Quinter were appointed clerks, and Daniel P. Sayler moderator.

The delegates then presented themselves, and the papers addressed to the council were received; and while business was preparing, public worship was, as usual, held on Monday.

There were represented, in this council-meeting, eighty-seven congregations. The delegates representing these congregations were divided into thirteen sub-committees, and to them were committed the queries designed to come before the General Council, in order that they might report upon them.

On Tuesday morning the brethren assembled for business. The meeting was opened with singing and prayer. After this, the object of the meeting was explained. The committees then



began to present their reports, and it was ascertained that the following queries were before the meeting. These were considered in the fear of God, and examined in the light of the Scriptures, and answered as herein stated:

Article 1. How is it considered if an elder gets in debt, and is sued, and is compelled to take the stay-law in order to get time to make arrangements to pay the claim, and pays it according to the time prescribed by law?

Answer: We consider that he could do no better under such circumstances.

Art. 2. How is it considered if a church holds a council to consider the propriety of holding a love-feast, and all the members present are jointly agreed to have a communion meeting, and accordingly hold such a meeting; but afterward a member will say we had no love-feast, and will insist that it was only a meal, and not a love-feast?

Answer: We consider that it is wrong for a member to do so, and that he should acknowledge it before the church to be a fault, or be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 3. How is it considered if a minister would publicly teach that water baptism is not for the remission of sins, but that a person must have an evidence within that his sins are pardoned before he is a fit subject for baptism; and, also, would differ with brethren in the mode of electing brethren to the ministry, and likewise claims that all members, both male and female, have a right to admonish and exhort?

Answer: Considered, that it is not according to Acts 2: 38, and 22: 16, to teach that a person must have an evidence within that his sins are pardoned before he is a fit subject for baptism, and that we know of no better way for the brethren to elect their ministers than that which has been practiced heretofore. And concerning members exhorting, without being authorized by the church, we think they should not do so in the church, in our public or general meetings, according to 1 Cor. 14: 33-35.

Art. 4. As secret societies seem to be multiplying, and as many young men around us join them, and as some undertake a defense of them, it seems necessary that our minds need to be frequently stirred up upon this matter. Then, as we profess to be followers of him who said, "In secret have I done nothing," will the Yearly Meeting, through its proceedings, come up to the side of our Lord?

Answer: We consider that members should not participate



in any secret or oath-bound societies whatever; and if, after they have been duly admonished, they persist in such participation, we consider the church is justifiable in excommunicating them.

Art. 5. Inasmuch as the ceremony used by the brethren, in receiving members into the church, is thought, by a large proportion of the brethren, to be of too great length, might it not be shortened? And, instead of the questions being asked in the water, would it not be more consistent to ask them in the house, or on the bank of the river or stream?

Answer: We do not consider it good to make any alterations from the present practice of the brethren.

Art. 6. Have the brethren the privilege of singing a hymn or two without lining them, if some brother mentions the page, before the commencement of worship, while the congregation is assembling? And have ministering brethren the privilege to read a hymn, before lining and singing, at the opening of the public service?

Answer: We consider these queries of but little import; but as singing is a part of divine worship, it should be conducted in order by those engaging in it. And whether a hymn should, or should not, be read previously to lining it, may be left to the option of those proposing the hymns.

Art. 7. Does the gospel permit of female preaching? and, if it does, shall they not have authority from the church under whose jurisdiction they are?

Answer: As Paul recognizes a distinction, in Rom. 12: 6, 7, between teaching, ministering, and prophesying, and as he evidently approves of females prophesying (1 Cor. 11: 5), we then think that a female cannot teach or preach according to 1 Cor. 14: 34; 1 Tim. 2: 12, in the ordinary acceptation of those terms, yet we cannot, under all, forbid them to prophesy.

Art. 8. Shall the answer to the seventeenth query of 1858 continue as it is there given?

Answer: We consider it best to leave it as it is. The query and answer above referred to, are as follows:

“Is it right for a speaker to sing a hymn, or a part of a hymn, at the time of the communion, when the wine is passing round?”

“Considered, it is right to do so.”

Art. 9. Is it considered to be right to call prayer-meetings social meetings?

Answer: It is considered right to do so.



Art. 10. If a brother has held meetings according to the twenty-sixth article of the minutes of 1858 (there being few members, and none of the ministers of the district in which the meeting was held, present), and would, to his knowledge, receive a person that is a Freemason into the church, without renouncing more of Masonry than just the wearing of the badge and the marching in parade; and the ministers and members of the district in which said member resides would afterward require a full renunciation, and he would refuse, and still claim the privilege of attending the lodge, etc., justifying himself by saying he had made no such promise at his reception; what shall be done in such a case?

Answer: If such a brother shall refuse to hear the church, he shall be dealt with according to Matt. 18: 17.

Art. 11. Inasmuch as the brethren, in Annual Council, last year, in Art. 8, decided that the public practical use of the spiritual gifts, such as exhortation, teaching, doctrine, and prophesying, seem to be the duties and privileges belonging to the officers of the church; now, where the bishop, with the majority of his members, are not willing to be governed and regulated by the above decision, and where, also, some of them disregard other decisions of the Annual Conference, such as forbid holding in fellowship those who will not renounce Freemasonry, taking part in debating schools, and holding offices under the civil government, and say that the brethren, in conference last year, decided in favor of things which were not in accordance with the gospel. What shall the minority in such a church do? To whom shall they apply to have such bishop and members regulated according to the order of the brethren and the Bible?

Answer: Such a minority of brethren in a church have full privilege to call brethren from another arm of the church, in order to investigate and adjust matters, upon the condition that said minority apprise the majority of their intention to call brethren, should they think it best to call for assistance from other churches.

Art. 12. Is it wrong for one brother to take a note of another brother? And is it wrong for the holder of the note to exchange it for a piece of land, after it was due (three years), by withholding the collection of the note for the time specified by the giver of the note? And is it wrong to ask a mortgage to secure such a note, where the giver mortgages all his property out of his hands?



Answer: We do not consider it wrong. This answer is designed for each of the above questions.

Art. 13. Is it right for a member of the church to have his property set off, where the law allows a certain amount, say three hundred dollars?

Answer: We think it is not right.

Art. 14. What shall we do when brethren, and even speakers and bishops, attend yearly the county fairs?

Answer: Such brethren should be admonished not to attend such places, and if they still persist in doing so, they should be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 15. How is it considered when a bishop moves from his district into a third district, and takes no letter of recommendation along with him, but wants to retain the oversight of the church he has left, and says he will still keep his standing in that church during his life, although he is frequently absent from their regular meetings?

Answer: He should have a letter of recommendation from the church from which he moved, and if the distance is not too great, he may still retain the oversight of that church, while his doing so may produce no difficulties.

Art. 16. We wish to know how to proceed with a brother, who resides in one branch of the church, but does not attend council-meetings and love-feasts in the branch in which he resides, but when there are love-feasts in the adjoining districts he attends them.

Answer: Such a brother should be visited, and the cause why he does not attend the meetings in his own congregation ascertained. (See Heb. 10: 23-25.) And if he should be disobedient (see Matt. 18: 17.)

Art. 17. A man's wife leaves him for no just cause, and she then obtains a bill of divorcement; after this she marries another man; and then, in consequence of this, the husband left, was divorced, and also marries another woman, after some time, with whom he is now living; and he having become convinced of the truth, has made application for baptism. Can he be received into the church?

Answer: We think he cannot, while living with the last woman as a husband. (See 1 Cor. 7: 10, 11.)

Art. 18. Is it considered in order for a ministering brother to



refuse to labor at home, while he goes out and fills appointments in neighboring churches?

Answer: We consider such a course inconsistent with the spirit of the gospel, but recommend that all such questions be investigated at home, in the churches in which they originate.

Art. 19. Is it right for brethren to salute with the holy kiss expelled members, when such go through other districts, and are known by the brethren to be expelled?

Answer: We consider it not right to do so; and any brother or sister saluting a person whom he or she knows was expelled, should be admonished, and if he refuses to hear the admonition, he should be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 20. Is it agreeable with the gospel for members to hold prayer-meetings, or, what they are some times called, social meetings, and to invite members of other denominations to unite with us in prayer?

Answer: We consider it agreeable with the gospel to hold such meetings, when they are strictly held in order; but as we do not call upon our own members, individually, to pray, it is not in our order of holding such meetings, to call on those of other denominations to pray.

Art. 21. A man marries his uncle's wife, but afterward thinks he discovers it forbidden in Lev. 18: 14, and 20: 20, and separates from her. He then marries another woman. He now desires to be received into the church. Can he be received, as the first woman is still living, and in a married connection with another man?

Answer: According to the civil law, the first marriage would be considered lawful, and, consequently, the second marriage is contrary to the gospel, and he cannot, therefore, be received into the church by baptism, while he, and the woman with whom he is living, are living together in the relation of man and wife.

Art. 22. Is it according to the gospel, and the rules of the brethren, for a brother in the second degree of the ministry to appoint a prayer-meeting, without the consent of the bishop and other brethren in the church?

Answer: We think it is not. The Apostle Paul declares that God is a God of order, and such a course does not seem to be in order. And the Apostle Peter's language (1 Peter 5: 5, 6) would likewise seem to disapprove of such a course.

Art. 23. In those states where muster fines are high, and where the fines are the only means whereby the military musters are kept up, would it not be better for brethren to muster a few



times and thereby cause the military system to be abolished, than to pay an oppressive fine and thereby keep up the regimental muster?

Answer: It would not, inasmuch as our Lord and Savior teaches non-resistance in gospel throughout. And when we go to musters we there learn the art of war, and the most appropriate method of shedding our fellow-creatures' blood. (See 2 Cor. 6: 17; John 18: 36.)

Art. 24. Is it becoming for members of the church of Christ to get the walls of their houses flowered, or papered with flowered paper?

Answer: We exhort all of our dear brethren to humility, for the apostle says (Rom. 12: 2), "Be not conformed to this world," etc. Humility is one of the prominent principles taught by our dear Redeemer, in precept and example. We ought, therefore, to try and abstain from superfluities.

Art. 25. In case brethren put a bell on their meeting-house, will their course be approved by the Yearly Meeting?

Answer: This Annual Meeting cannot approve of brethren doing so.

Art. 26. Does the gospel, in any case, allow a member of the church to use the power of the law in collecting a debt, or in defense of his rights? And if going to law is wrong, does the sanction of the church make it right? We also desire queries thirty-two and forty-nine of the minutes of 1858, to be reconsidered by this Annual Meeting.

Answer: We cannot give our members liberty to go to law; and if any of them do go to law, the congregation in which such reside shall take the case up and act on it as it thinks the gospel requires. This answer, it was thought, is sufficient for the whole query, as the different points in it refer to the same general subject.

Art. 27. In relation to the questions from Owl Creek Church Knox County, Ohio, growing out of the serious difficulties which that church has concerning its meeting-house, the following advice was given:

We consider it best that the brethren, in meekness and patience, wait for the further manifestations of the will of God upon the matter. And it was recommended that the case be remembered by the brethren in general in prayer.

Art. 28. Seeing the great necessity of having the gospel, as held and practiced by the brethren, more extensively spread and



known, we desire that the brethren in this Annual Council reconsider the fifty-eighth article of the minutes of 1858, and adopt it with such amendments as, in the fear of the Lord, may seem best. As it was recommended by the last Annual Meeting to make the subject of spreading the gospel one of prayerful consideration, it appears it was done; and several of the churches have expressed their wish to this Annual Council meeting to have it take a favorable action upon the subject, the following is the conclusion this Annual Meeting has come to in relation to what is referred to in this article.

This meeting recommend and give liberty to any of the districts or states to make a move on the subject of spreading and sustaining the gospel, as preached and understood by the brethren, so that the same may be done in the order of the gospel. And we recommend to those churches which may adopt this to make a report to the next Annual Meeting upon their success. And, in view of the importance of the subject, we appoint the following brethren as a committee to propose some plan by which the brotherhood in general may take a part in this good work; said plan to be reported to the next Annual Meeting: Daniel P. Sayler, John Kline, John H. Umstad, Samuel Layman, John Metzger, and James Quinter. Daniel P. Sayler is the corresponding member of the committee.

Art. 29. Can a minister, who is not ordained, with the counsel of the church, expel a member, or must there be an ordained elder present?

Answer: It is not necessary for an ordained elder to be present, if the member to be expelled is a private member.

Art. 30. If a brother in the ministry or deaconship move from one congregation to another, having a certificate of good standing in his office, has the congregation to which he moved a right to refuse to receive him with his office?

Answer: We consider they have not.

Art. 31. Is it according to the gospel and its principles for brethren of our fraternity to salute with the holy kiss those who do not stand in the faith with us, nor practice or keep the ordinances of the Lord as we do? And is it according to the gospel to call such brethren, and give them liberty to take part in our public worship?

Answer: As a general thing we do not think it is expedient to do so.

Art. 32. How is it considered when ministering brethren from



one church will come into another church and preach with an expelled bishop, who is building up a church of his own, and also visit all of the dissatisfied members, causing much confusion and dissatisfaction in the church by doing so; and when lay members go to hear him preach who has been expelled?

Answer: We consider it wrong to do so. And such brethren should be admonished, and if they will not be submissive and acknowledge, they should be dealt with according to the gospel.

Art. 33. If a member of a church moves from one congregation into another, and is afterward called back again by the said congregation from which he had moved, for some offense, and is expelled; he then applies for membership to the congregation he now lives in, but is sent back by it to the congregation that expelled him to see whether it could release him or be reconciled with him, and it does release him upon his confession and repentance. Now which congregation is to receive him into membership?

Answer: He should be received by the same church that expelled him, and that church should give him a certificate, and that will give him a membership in the church to which he has removed.

Art. 34. Is it according to the gospel for brethren, when giving admonition to the church after the annual visit has been made, to name members against whom something is alleged, in General Council, or shall we proceed with them according to the eighteenth chapter of Matthew?

Answer: We ought to proceed according to the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, except in cases of open violation of the gospel.

Art. 35. Several communications were sent to this Annual Meeting from the brethren hitherto distinguished as Western brethren. From these communications we shall give some extracts, as we have not room upon the minutes to give them entire:

“Beloved Brethren: We, the brethren in Adams County, Illinois, met together in council to take into consideration the course we had best adopt respecting the Yearly Meeting. On account of the great distance we are from the place of meeting, and none of us being in a situation suitable to take such a journey, we have concluded to send you these lines to inform you that after we received the minutes of last conference, held in Indiana, we called a church council, and we concluded, for the sake of union in the brother-



hood, to adopt the minutes of last Yearly Meeting, and we intend to carry them out as near as circumstances will admit of.

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"We further state that we are willing to counsel and be counseled by the Yearly Meeting." Signed by Elder George Wolf, and others, by order of the church.

The following extract is from a letter from Sugar Creek Church, Sangamon County, Illinois:

"We have unanimously agreed to be fully united with our beloved elder brethren, to counsel and be counseled. And we have put in practice the order in receiving and baptizing members, non-swearing and non-conformity to the world." Signed by Elder Isham Gibson, and others, by order of the church.

From the brethren in Hurricane Creek district, Bond County, Illinois:

"Dear Brethren in the Lord: Considering your love and care for us as manifested by your kind forbearance and long suffering toward us, we in love to you and all saints, thought it good to send you this epistle, and also brother Daniel B. Sturgis, delegate from this district, witnessing that we desire full fellowship and union. And we unanimously agree to be counseled by the brethren, and submit to all the decisions of our beloved brethren in conference. We believe the best good of all is maintained by a full subjection to the decisions of the Yearly Meetings, published in the minutes." Signed by Daniel B. Sturgis, and others, by order of the church.

The following is the expression of this Annual Meeting upon the subject referred to in the above communications: Whereas, it is known that what have been called the Western brethren have not heretofore been in perfect union with our churches in observing the ordinances and regulations in the house of God; and, whereas, a number of communications have come before this council-meeting from said brethren, expressing a strong desire to be in full fellowship with our brotherhood, and promising to submit to and be governed by the rules by which we think the house of God should be governed; therefore, considered that we have cause to thank God that the efforts made to bring about a union have been so successful, and we are now happy to recognize them as being in full fellowship with us.

Art. 36. Requests for committees: 1. A request for a committee to visit Sugar Creek Church, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, to investigate grievances.



The request was granted, and the following brethren constitute the committee: Elias Dicky, Henry Davy, Jacob Garber, of Mohickon, Ohio.

2. A request for a committee to visit Upper Conowago Church, Adams County, Pennsylvania.

The request was granted, and the following brethren constitute the committee: Peter Long, Philip Boyle and Christian Keefer.

Art. 37. A resolution was passed returning thanks to those railroad companies which took persons attending the meeting over their roads for half fare.

Art. 38. Requests for the Annual Meeting: 1. A request from Clover Creek Church, Blair County, Pennsylvania, for 1861. 2. A request from Hagerstown, Wayne County, Indiana, for 1860. 3. A request from the Valley of Virginia for 1861. 4. A request from the Miami Valley, Ohio, for the Annual Meeting whenever the brethren assembled in Annual Council think it suitable to appoint it there. The request from the brethren of Limestone Congregation, Tennessee, was renewed and granted. Our next Annual Meeting, therefore, will be held, the Lord willing, with the brethren in Washington County, Tennessee, on Pentecost, 1860. Brethren coming to the meeting will come to Limestone depot, on the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad, which will be about three miles from the place of meeting. Correspondence can be held with the following brethren: Emanuel Arnold, David B. Klepper, and Jacob Nead, Broylesville, Washington County, Tennessee.

Standing committee, etc.: John Kline, Jacob Thomas, of Virginia; Daniel P. Sayler, Isaac Pfoutz, of Maryland; John P. Ebersole, Henry Davy, James Quinter, of Ohio; Jacob Miller, John Metzger, of Indiana; Samuel Layman, David Rittenhouse, of Illinois; John H. Umstad, Peter Long, John Berkley, of Pennsylvania.

D. P. Sayler, J. Quinter, Clerks.

D. P. Sayler, Moderator.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1860.

Limestone Church, Washington County, Tenn.

It having been announced that the meeting would commence on Saturday, accordingly, at an early hour in the morning, a large congregation was assembled for worship, and public meetings for



worship were held on Saturday, Sunday, and on the morning of Monday. The best accommodations were made that could be made on the occasion, for affording the people present facilities for hearing the gospel preached, and a good degree of attention was given, and considerable interest manifested.

On Monday morning the council-meeting was organized by appointing the following standing committee: Peter Nead, J. B. Ebersole, John Metzger, Christian Long, Henry Koontz, John Kline, Daniel Barnhart, Abraham Neff, and Peter Nininger. Daniel P. Sayler and James Quinter were appointed clerks, and Daniel P. Sayler moderator.

The delegates then presented themselves to the standing committee, and the various papers addressed to the council were received.

The representation in this Annual Council was unusually small, there being but few delegates from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, and none at all from Pennsylvania and New Jersey. There were represented in the council but sixty churches. The delegates present were divided into five sub-committees, and to these were committed the papers designed to come before the General Council, in order that they might report upon them.

On Monday afternoon the brethren assembled in council for business. The meeting was opened with devotional exercises. The object of the meeting was then stated, after which the committees began to present their reports, and it was ascertained that the following queries for consideration were before the council. They were considered in the fear of God, and examined in the light of the Scriptures, and answered as herein stated.

The first business in order before the meeting was the report of the committee, appointed by the last Annual Meeting (see Minutes of 1859, Art. 28), to prepare and report a plan for the work of evangelism. Accordingly, the committee, to whom the matter was referred, presented the following report:

The committee appointed at the Annual Meeting in 1859, twenty-eighth article, to propose some plan to the present meeting by which the brotherhood in general may take some part in the good work of the Lord in preaching the gospel more generally, reports as follows: Whereas, the preaching of the gospel to every creature is a command of Christ, since he said to his disciples, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16: 15), and therefore a duty enjoined upon all his disciples. Hence, it needs no argument in its defense. The



only point to be considered is, How shall it be done? Now St. Paul says, "Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges?" (1 Cor. 9: 7); and as the Lord Jesus gave every man his work, as well as his servants authority. Mark 13: 34: "For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work." It is, therefore, evident that he did not mean that his ministering servants should be burdened with the duty of preaching his word, and also bearing the expenses incurred in traveling from place to place, while all the members of the body remain idle. The committee understands the Lord Jesus to mean that the church, his body on earth (1 Cor. 12: 27), shall, unitedly, preach his gospel in all the world, by the ministry, through the Holy Ghost; and, therefore, the church should pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers, for so Jesus commanded his disciples, saying: "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." Matt. 9: 37, 38. And it appears, from the following accounts in Acts 13: 2, 3, that this was the practice of the apostolic church: "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."

And, in view of the above considerations, the committee offers the following advice: That the churches of the brotherhood form themselves into districts, the brethren in those districts to meet as often as they may judge it necessary to transact their business; that each of said districts has its treasury, and each one of the churches which form said districts has its treasury, the former to be supplied out of the latter, and the latter to be supplied by weekly contributions, as directed by the Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 16: 2): "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come,"—a plan for raising pecuniary funds, of divine appointment, and is one which commends itself to our acceptance, both from its authority and excellency.

And in order that the funds collected may be the most judiciously, satisfactorily, and economically applied, we advise that each sub-district or church appoint at least one delegate to attend the general district meetings, and that these meetings so dispose of the funds collected as they shall judge most conducive to the glory of God and the salvation of souls. And in order to preserve a



proper harmony between all the congregations of the brotherhood, we further advise that each general district meeting send a delegate to the Annual Meeting, and by the delegate a report of its proceedings, that all such proceedings may be in harmony with the regulations, as made by the brethren assembled in Annual Council, and subject to the inspection and control of that body. And in case any demands of a general character for evangelists are made, sufficiently so to require the action of the Annual Meeting, then, in that case, the funds needed to defray the expenses of said evangelists shall be drawn from the treasuries of the several districts.

And as the conviction of mind seems to be general among the brethren that greater exertion should be made by the brotherhood to have the gospel preached in every place, the committee would remind the ministry that the foregoing plan is by no means designed to supersede the labors of our ministers in their individual capacities. But we recommend to all our preachers to labor, as they have been accustomed to do, without money and without price, as far as their circumstances will permit them to do so, showing, as they have hitherto done, in a remarkable degree, the Christian grace of self-denial—a grace which shone brightly in the life of our divine Master, and which occupies a prominent place in his teaching.

We further recommend to all our preachers to submit the above plan to their congregations, hoping that it will meet with their acceptance.

All of which is respectfully submitted by the committee, D. P. Sayler, John Kline, John Metzger, James Quinter.

The committee appointed by the last Annual Meeting to report a plan to the present meeting for the work of evangelism, presented the above report, and it was considered that this Annual Meeting thinks it best, as there are so few churches represented, not to adopt it as the work of this meeting, but postpones it for the consideration of the next Annual Meeting, and concludes it best to have it entered upon the minutes for the examination of the brethren. But while this council-meeting cannot, for the reason above given, adopt the prepared report, it acknowledges the necessity of increased efforts among us to spread the gospel, and still gives the liberty that was given by the last Annual Council, to any of the churches which may see their way open to do so, to engage in the work of evangelism.

Hereupon the following queries were considered:



Article 1. Inasmuch as we publicly denounce (human) church discipline, and claim the New Testament Scriptures as the only rule of our faith and practice, is it, then, consistent with our profession to make a strict observance of the minutes of the Annual Council a test of fellowship?

Answer: The decisions of the Annual Meeting are obligatory until such decisions shall be repealed by the same authority.

Art. 2. Ought not Art. 33, of the minutes of 1859, be reconsidered? (The article referred to is this: "If a member of a church moves from one congregation into another, and is afterward called back again by the said congregation from which he had moved, for some offense, and is expelled; he then applies for membership to the congregation he now lives in, but is sent back by it to the congregation that expelled him, to see whether it could release him, or be reconciled with him, and it does release him upon his confession and repentance. Now, which congregation is to receive him into membership?")

Answer: The expelled member must be received by the church that expelled him, or make full satisfaction to that church, in person or by letter, and then he can be received into the church in which he lives.

Art. 3. What is to be done with the following case: A brother buys real estate, and becomes much involved in debt by borrowing money, and otherwise, and then, to secure some one or two of his creditors, mortgages all of his real estate to them. He afterward appoints a trustee to sell his property, which does not cover the liens against it, and the wife, who is a sister, takes from the trustee a portion of the personal property, in consideration of her relinquishing her potential right of dower, while much money will be lost by the creditors?

Answer: If the church in which the case exists is satisfied that there was no intention to defraud, on the part of the brother, and that the sister, by taking the personal property, as stated, was an advantage, rather than a disadvantage, in the sale of the real estate, it may retain them as members under a satisfactory acknowledgment.

Art. 4. Shall it be an order among the brethren to receive persons into the church as members, when they are sick, without baptism, with the promise that they will be baptized when they get well?

Answer: Let persons who wish to be received into the church, and who are too sick to have the ordinance of baptism admin-



istered to them, be considered candidates for baptism, to receive the ordinance as soon as circumstances will permit, but not in full membership until they are baptized.

Art. 5. How is it considered when members of the church, that are sick, call for the elders of the church, and are anointed according to the gospel, and then again resort to the use of medicine; is it wrong to do so?

Answer: We do not consider it wrong, according to the gospel, to do so.

Art. 6. As we see a difference in the words used in anointing the sick, we therefore ask for the most proper ceremony and manner for observing the same, according to the gospel and practice of the old brethren.

Answer: As the difference is not stated in the query, we know of nothing better than that which the brethren have given us in the appendix to the minutes of 1853. The following is the order referred to:

About the anointing of the sick. (See Art. 43.) (From the minutes of the Yearly Meeting, in Augusta County, Virginia, in the year 1827.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Of the order of anointing the sick. The order has ever been, in the first place to sing a few lines, and to turn to God in a united prayer. Then (there ought always to be two brethren) the one holds out his hand, and the other pours the oil on it, and the first putteth the same on the head of the sick, and says the words which the Apostle James teacheth (chap. 5: 14): "Thou art anointed in the name of the Lord," and thus three times, but the words only once said. Then both brethren lay their hands upon the head of the sick, and pray over him; for it is not considered to be intended only an inward unction, but an outward anointing, whereof the apostle speaks, as mentioned before.

(From manuscript accounts of elder brethren concerning the same, and exhibiting it more particularly.) As regards the anointing, it requires two brethren in order to perform it according to the advice of the apostle, since he says: "Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him." These words require more than one. Now, when we are going to perform the same, the first we do, after singing a few appropriate lines and briefly exhorting, is to turn to God, unitedly, and to pray God for a blessing upon ourselves, upon the sick member, and upon all, as we do in a meeting, and there is liberty to pray for all the brethren present. If time will permit, and strangers are present, the passage from James 5 may be read, as far as relates to this matter, and briefly commented upon. Then the sick member is raised to a sitting posture, and the elder brother reacheth forth his hand, and the other brother pours the oil upon it, which he, the first, puts upon the head of the sick, and thus three times



saying the words of the apostle: "Thou art anointed in the name of the Lord, unto the strengthening of thy faith, unto the comforting of thy conscience, and unto a full assurance of the remission of thy sins," or as the Lord may give utterance; and then the brethren both put their hands upon the sick, even as it is done when a brother is ordained, and pray chiefly for the sick member. Such an example we have of the Savior, as we see in Mark 6: 15, and 17: 18, and this is the order the brethren have administered the same. Brethren, also, who are not ordained, may administer it in cases of necessity.

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Art. 7. How is it considered when a brother has been elected to the ministry, but who has never exercised in his office, and who has no confidence in his ability to be useful asks, after eighteen months from the time he was elected to the office, to be released from serving?

Answer: We think the time specified above is too short to try a brother, and we think the brethren had better encourage such a brother to speak and exercise in his office, but let him not be over urged.

Art. 8. Inasmuch as in the minutes of 1849, tenth query, the stock of railroads and banks are coupled together, we desire the Annual Meeting of 1860 to consider each subject separately, and to give an answer to each.

Answer: We advise brethren not to invest their money in bank stock at all, and would advise them to be cautious of all incorporated companies.

Art. 9. We, the brethren, assembled in general district council, at the Valley meeting-house, in Botetourt County, Virginia, desire that the brethren in the Annual Council meeting of 1860 devise some plan or way to remodel, or enlarge by appendix, our hymn-book, so as to satisfy the wants of the brethren.

Answer: To comply with the above request, this Annual Meeting appoints a committee of five to make a new hymn-book, with the understanding that as many of the hymns in the present book as possible be retained. The following brethren constitute the committee: James Quinter, Ohio; Samuel Garber, Illinois; John Metzger, Indiana; John H. Umstad, Pennsylvania; John Kline, Virginia.

Art. 10. A brother has a wife, who is not a member of the church, and she refuses to live with him peaceably; and having been living apart from him for more than two years, the brethren acquainted with the circumstances believing the wife to be the cause of the trouble, she now demands a divorce. Now, brethren, we would be very glad if you will give us advice in this case.



Answer: We think a brother cannot grant or accept of a divorce for any cause but that of fornication. "But I say unto you, that whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery; and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced, committeth adultery." Matt. 5: 32; 1 Cor. 7: 15.

Art. 11. Is it consistent with the order of the brethren, and the gospel, to receive a member into the church without the counsel of the church, when it is practicable to have a council?

Answer: It is not consistent.

Art. 12. Whereas, the brethren in California and Oregon have earnestly desired and requested a delegation of two or three brethren to be sent, by the Annual Council of the brethren, to encourage and strengthen them, and "to set in order the things needed" for a proper organization of churches according to the gospel of Christ, as well as to preach the gospel where Christ is not known. The meeting, therefore, receiving with favor the request, came to the following conclusion concerning the subject:

It was decided that the standing committee of this Annual Meeting form a board for the purpose of corresponding with brethren, and of ascertaining if any seem to be called to the work, and of judging of their fitness for it, and for making the necessary arrangements for carrying out the purpose of this Annual Meeting, to comply with the request from the brethren in California and Oregon. And in order to obtain the necessary pecuniary aid, this meeting recommends to all the churches to make contributions for the purpose, and to report to the board the result of their operations. James Quinter, of Columbiana, Columbiana County, Ohio, was appointed corresponding secretary, and Daniel P. Sayler, Double Pipe Creek, Carroll County, Maryland, treasurer.

Art. 13. Requests for committees: 1. A request for a committee to visit the Limestone congregation, in Washington County, Tennessee, to settle existing difficulties.

The request was granted, and the following brethren constitute the committee: John Wine, Martin Miller, Jacob Miller, Peter Crumpacker, Benjamin Moomaw, Jacob Wine, and Martin Garber.

2. This Annual Meeting ascertaining that difficulties exist in the church in Cedar County, Missouri, appoints the following brethren as a committee to visit said church, and to settle the difficulties: John Metzger, Jacob Brower, and David Brower.

3. A request for a committee to visit the Ridge Church, in



Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, to investigate grievances therein existing.

The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed on the committee: Henry Koontz, Christian Keefer, George Beer, Peter Long, and David Bosserman.

Art. 14. Requests for the Annual Meeting: 1. A request from the Miami churches, Ohio, for the meeting of 1862 was renewed. 2. The request from the Clover Creek Church, Blair County, Pennsylvania, for the meeting of 1863, was renewed. 3. A request from the Wayne County Church, Indiana, for the meeting of 1862. 4. A request from Appanoose County Church, Iowa, for the meeting, but no time named. 5. The request from the Valley of Virginia, for the meeting of 1861, was renewed, and granted. Hence, our next Annual Meeting will be held, the Lord willing, with the brethren in the Valley of Virginia, on Pentecost, 1861. Beaver Creek congregation, Rockingham County, has been selected as the place for the meeting. Correspondence can be held with the following brethren: John Wine, Martin Miller, and Daniel Thomas, Bridgewater, Rockingham County, Virginia. Directions to brethren coming to the Annual Meeting of 1861, by public conveyance: Those coming from the south and southwest, will come to Staunton by railroad, and from that place to Mt. Crawford, which is seven miles from the place of meeting. Those coming from the northwest and east, will come by the city of Washington, to Alexandria, and then take the Manassas Gap Railroad to Mt. Jackson, and thence to Harrisonburg by stage. The place of meeting is ten miles from Harrisonburg. Further information will be given through the "Visitor" in due time.

Standing committee, etc.: Peter Nead, J. P. Ebersole, of Ohio; Henry Koontz, D. P. Sayler, of Maryland; John Kline, Daniel Barnhart, Abraham Neff, Peter Nininger, of Virginia; John Metzger, of Indiana; Christian Long, of Illinois.

D. P. Sayler, J. Quinter, Clerks.

D. P. Sayler, Moderator.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1861.

Beaver Creek Church, Rockingham County, Va.

Pursuant to appointment made on Pentecost last at Annual Meeting in Washington County, Tennessee, the brethren met in Annual Council. A very large congregation having assembled,



public worship was commenced on Sunday morning, at the usual time, and conducted at three different places: in the meeting-house, in the tent, and in the grove, at each of which places the people assembled in dense crowds, as far as the speaker could be heard understandingly, and still there were many who did not get any benefit of the preaching, for which there seemed to be an ardent desire; so much so, that all the meeting-houses in the surrounding country and villages were opened for our use, and pressing invitations given to the brethren to occupy them.

It was therefore to be regretted that there were not more ministering brethren present. The brethren here had also made extensive preparations for the bodily comfort of those who should be with them, and seemed to lament much that the brethren from distant parts were not with them to share in their hospitality, as well as in the spiritual feast they had anticipated. Nevertheless, as there were many brethren and sisters present, we enjoyed a feast of fat things together, forgetting, for the time being, the confusion of the political affairs without, owing to which many of the churches, composing our common fraternity, were not represented.

But, not wishing by any means, to change the regular usages of the church whereby the fraternal bond of our common brotherhood might be affected, we have, therefore, with those elders and brethren who have assembled, after having dedicated ourselves anew to God, concluded to proceed, with the business before us, in the regular way. Accordingly, the queries presented were considered, and disposed of in the manner following, to-wit:

Article 1. Are we to understand by the grant of social meetings, as decided in Annual Meeting of 1858, to make public appointments frequently where there is an organized church and preaching every two weeks, and in conducting them, liberty to be given to any brother or sister, or, if time admit, for all to rise to their feet by course, and exhort; and, if not so to be understood, what will the Annual Council say the order of social meetings shall be?

Considered, that the order should be according to that rule laid down by the apostle in 1 Cor. 14: 27-40. And to unite with other professors in worship in our meetings is inconsistent with the gospel and the practice of the church.

Art. 2. Is it in harmony with the spirit of the gospel, when brethren teach school, at the expiration of the term, to hold exhibitions, attended with music?



Considered, that it is not, and that brethren would better close by singing and prayer. (See James 5: 13, and Eph. 5: 19.)

Art. 3. Inasmuch as the brethren have decided, in conference, that members who would not conform to the order in dress as generally practiced by the old brethren and sisters, that they could not have the privilege to the communion. But, as this does not restrain them into the order, we wish to know whether the church has the right to deal with them as offenders when they will not conform in dress or to wearing caps, and leave off wearing hoops?

Considered, that such members should be admonished, and that warmly, too, to lay aside all superfluities and conform to the order of the church. Otherwise they must and will be regarded as disobedient members. (See Romans 12.)

Art. 4. How would it be considered where a brother and sister hold personal property and real estate, and the brother dies; has the sister a right to take the benefit of the law and hold three hundred dollars of the personal property and one-third of the real estate, and by so doing so injure the sale of the other two-thirds of the real estate that it will not sell for near its value, and will not pay more than one-half of the indebtedness of the estate, whereas, if she had let the whole of the land be sold together, it would have paid all the debts, and then left to her one-third of the money.

Considered, that as it is impossible for all the circumstances to be known in such cases to an Annual Meeting, therefore such things ought to be settled by committees at home, selected by the parties and the church.

Art. 5. Is it considered right, according to the gospel, for a member to hold forfeit-money under any circumstances whatever?

Considered, that it is not right when the holder is not injured by the transaction, and if he is, he should only keep enough to indemnify himself for such loss.

Art. 6. Will this Yearly Meeting grant the privilege to reprint all the minutes of the Yearly Meetings, so that those wishing to have them may have a full copy?

Resolved, by this Annual Meeting, that this subject should be attended to, and we therefore recommend that a committee be appointed to gather up all the minutes, as far back as can be had, and bring them together in such a way and form as may be thought best, and we hereby appoint brethren Henry Kurtz, of Ohio; Andrew Spanogle, of Pennsylvania, John Kline, of Vir-



ginia, Christian Long, of Illinois, and Philip Boyle, of Maryland, to attend to said business, and report to next Yearly Meeting.

Art. 7. Contains a remonstrance from the Sugar Creek Church Allen County, Ohio, as follows: "Having assembled in council, and having under consideration the missionary question, we, the church aforesaid, enter our remonstrance against all plans that have been recommended through the 'Visitor,' save the one on page 279, of September number last."

All business upon this subject is referred to the next Yearly Meeting.

Art. 8. Is it according to the gospel for brethren to administer the communion to the sick or disabled members in the day time, and without celebrating the other ordinances connected with it?

Considered, not according to the gospel, because the Master instituted it in the night. However, there is no impropriety in attending to it if done in the regular way and at the proper time, in connection with the other ordinances instituted with it.

Art. 9. When expelled members, upon application, are readmitted, how shall they be received by the church?

Considered, that the applying members be received by the hand of fellowship and the kiss of charity; but that the (reinstated) brother or sister go around to all the members, and (in order to) be received by them.

Art. 10. How is it considered if brethren suffer their children to take an active part in school debates and exhibitions?

Considered, that there can be no objection, if conducted in an orderly manner; and we advise brethren (at the same time not to forget) to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Art. 11. Shall members be allowed to go to the Lord's table and partake of the bread and the cup of the Lord, and when so done afterward bring up old complaints again, or, shall the church act upon such complaints or not?

Considered, that when any matter has once been fairly investigated by the church, or settled between two parties, the decision should be final, and if a member should afterward revive it, they should be held responsible and fall into the dealings of the church, more especially after having partaken of the communion.

Art. 12. Shall the church receive a complaint against a mem-



ber before the offended brother go and tell his brother his fault between himself and him alone or not?

Considered, that if we would read the rule of life as contained in Matt. 18, we would find no need of originating such questions.

Art. 13. Resolved, that we are opposed to a treasury for the exclusive benefit of the ministry, but that every church should encourage their ministers to be active in their calling, and also to support them in all cases of necessity.

Considered, that we fully concur in the sentiment above expressed.

Art. 14. That we are in favor of postponing the revision of our hymn-books.

Considered, since a committee was appointed, by last Yearly Meeting, to attend to this business, and circumstances preventing their action, we are in favor of extending the same committee, to consummate the work assigned them at their earliest convenience.

Art. 15. Would it not be better, and give more satisfaction to the brotherhood at large, if the brethren serving or composing the standing committee at our Annual Meetings would be changed every year, so as to have at least two-thirds of the same fresh members?

Considered, that we do not think it advisable to make any change in the manner of choosing the standing committee, and are still satisfied with the decision of the Yearly Meeting of 1853. (See Article 1, in the minutes of that year.)

Art. 16. Is it proper or profitable for brethren to engage in public discussions with other professors upon religious or other subjects?

Considered, that we think it right to defend the gospel, when interrogated (or assailed) either in private or public; but that we should not engage in worldly or political subjects, at least not to discuss them publicly.

Art. 17. A committee being requested to go to Kansas, Breckenridge County, etc., to settle all matters of difficulty existing there, we, the standing committee, do appoint the following brethren to attend to this business to-wit: John Metzger, of Indiana, Christian Long, of Illinois, and Samuel Lehman, also of Illinois.

Art. 18. And there being a call for a committee to attend and settle matters in the Leading Creek, and also in the church on Dryfork, in Randolph County, Virginia, the call is favorably received, and the following brethren are hereby appointed, viz.: Joseph



Arnold, of Hampshire, Jacob Miller, of Rockingham, and Jacob Wine, of Shenandoah, Virginia.

Art. 19. As to the mode of setting apart suitable brethren for the proposed Pacific mission,

We recommend that the vote of the whole church be taken, and that the two brethren receiving the vote of the greatest number of churches shall be declared elected, and if either of them could not go, then the next highest, etc.; and we further recommend that all the churches take immediate action and report to the corresponding secretary of the board appointed for that purpose. For information, refer to the minutes of last Yearly Meeting (1860).

Art. 20. The request of the churches in the Miami Valley (Ohio) for the Yearly Meeting in 1862 was favorably received and granted; therefore, the Lord willing, our Yearly Meeting will take place, on Pentecost next, in Bro. Abraham Erbaugh's district, ten miles from Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio, three miles from Brookville station, on the Dayton and Union Railroad. Letters addressed to Bro. Erbaugh, New Lebanon, Montgomery County, Ohio, will be attended to.

We, the brethren composing the standing committee, do hereby annex our names in testimony of our consent to the decisions of the queries before the meeting:

Joseph Arnold, George Shaver, Peter Crumpacker, Martin Miller, Daniel Miller, of Ohio.

John Kline, Moderator.

Benjamin F. Moomaw, Secretary.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1862.

Erbaugh Church, Montgomery County, Ohio.

A very large number of persons having assembled on Saturday, meetings for worship were held on that day. The congregation being very large on Lord's-day, arrangements were made for having divine service conducted in five different places, and in the German and English languages. A large number of the ministering brethren present participated in the labors of the day, and good attention was given to the Word preached.

After the devotional exercises, on Monday morning, the council meeting was organized by appointing the following standing committee: John Berkley and John Zug, of Pennsylvania; Daniel P. Sayler, of Maryland; John Kline and John Wine, of Virginia;



John Brower, Henry Kurtz, and Joseph Showalter, of Ohio; John Metzger, and Jacob Miller, of Indiana; Sam. Garber and Dan. Sturgis, of Illinois; John Brower, of Kansas; John Ogg, of Minnesota; Abraham Replogle, of Iowa. Daniel P. Sayler and James Quinter were appointed clerks, and John Kline moderator.

The delegates then presented themselves before the general committee, and presented the papers which they brought from the churches, by whom they were sent as delegates. It was ascertained that there were represented at this council-meeting one hundred and thirty-six congregations by about two hundred and forty delegates. The general committee, having received the papers addressed to the meeting, distributed such as contained queries to twenty sub-committees, who retired and prepared their reports.

On Tuesday morning the brethren assembled in General Council, to receive and consider the reports of the sub-committees. The meeting was opened with devotional exercises. The object of the meeting was then explained. After this the queries were considered and the following answers given by the meeting:

Article 1. Is it agreeable to the order of the brethren to hold Sabbath-schools; and, if so, how should they be conducted?

Answer: The decision of the Annual Meeting of 1857 is re-adopted.

Art. 2. With regard to prayer-meetings, how should they be conducted?

Answer: All our meetings for divine service should be conducted according to the gospel, which requires all things to be done decently and in order.

Art. 3. If a sister is married to a man, who after living with her awhile, leaves her, and she, not hearing from him for several years, marries again, can she be held as a member?

Answer: No; she could not be held as a member.

Art. 4. In installing official members into office in the church, is there to be any difference observed between near relations?

Answer: There is no difference to be observed.

Art. 5. In case a complaint is found against a brother because he was sued at court for an honest debt, and then took the stay, and when he is visited he denies the charge, and says that he was not sued; but the brethren, having evidence to the contrary, agree to send two brethren to the county clerk's office,



and the clerk shows, by his record, that the brother was sued, and took the stay for nearly six months, and then paid the debt, together with the costs. Now, the question is, which is to be taken as truth, the brother's word, or the record in the clerk's office? And have the brethren a right, or have they not, to send brethren to the world to investigate church matters?

Answer: It is not wrong for brethren to have such matters closely investigated, and to obtain all the light possible.

Art. 6. Is it proper for the visiting brethren, at our public meetings, when there are from three to six laboring brethren present, to rise to their feet, and line out a hymn, and exhort, in preference to the laboring brethren, or are they to keep their seats?

Answer: The laboring brethren are to conduct the meeting, and it is the duty of the visiting brethren to exhort when liberty is given them.

Art. 7. Is it allowed by the brethren, in Annual Council, for the members of the church to attend singing-schools on Sundays, or at night, or in the week?

Answer: While we would caution our members, especially the young, against the abuses of singing-schools, we would not absolutely forbid them, if conducted orderly, and if they do not conflict with the time of preaching.

Art. 8. Is it wrong for brethren to put bells on their meeting-houses?

Answer: We do not think it advisable to encourage brethren to have bells on their meeting-houses.

Art. 9. When official members move from one district to another, should they be received with hand and kiss, or is a letter sufficient?

Answer: Art. 9, of the minutes of 1846, re-adopted, and here to be re-printed: "Is a brother, that was a speaker or deacon, and has moved into another church, properly reinstalled in his office, if an ordained brother takes the counsel of the church, and announces the same to him, without he being received by the members with hand and kiss? Considered, unanimously, by the elders, that inasmuch as he was properly received into his office by the church in which he was chosen, he would be sufficiently established."

Art. 10. How are we to proceed with members who will neglect to attend council and public meetings, and that for months?



Answer: Such members should be admonished, again and again, and their reasons for non-attendance ascertained, and the danger of living in such a manner set before them. (See Heb. 10: 25.)

Art. 11. Inasmuch as there are so many secret societies, such as Freemasons, Odd-Fellows, Sons of Temperance, etc., and as the members of Christ's church are not allowed to belong to any of them, would it not be best to ask all applicants for membership whether they belong to any secret order; and if they do, to inform them that they must renounce all such before they are received into the church?

Answer: If there is a suspicion of any applicant for membership having fellowship with such societies, we think it not wrong to ask such a question.

Art. 12. How is it considered for brethren to wear the beard on the upper lip, they being conscientious in doing so?

If a brother does not shave any, we would leave it with his conscience; but if he lets it stand on his upper lip only, we consider it wrong.

Art. 13. How is it considered if a church did, some years ago, in presence of two ordained elders, put in avoidance a member, having committed one of those sins mentioned in 1 Cor. 5: 11, and at a later date the same church did decide a similar case differently, by a strong majority, in opposition to one ordained elder and the housekeeper in the church?

Answer: Inasmuch as Brethren Henry Kurtz and Jacob Snyder have taken this matter in hand, we leave it to those brethren to come to a union with the church concerned.

Art. 14. How is it considered when a church has several ministers of equal standing, and none of them ordained, has the housekeeper, or have the ministers, a right to call to their assistance an ordained brother, without the counsel of the church?

Answer: They have not the right to do so without the counsel of the church.

Art. 15. How is it considered, if a minister defends and justifies slavery, even in a public debate?

Answer: It is utterly wrong for any brother to do so, according to Matt. 7: 12.

Art. 16. Inasmuch as the Yearly Meeting has allowed of brethren's children taking active part in school exhibitions, if properly conducted, is it wrong for brethren to go with them, to investigate such exhibitions?



Answer: We consider it best to leave the answer to query 10 of last Yearly Meeting, as it is; and in answer to the additional question whether the parents may go to school exhibitions, we would say we consider it best for them not to go, if their going would be likely to encourage any thing that is of an evil character.

Art. 17. Is it considered right, according to the gospel, for a brother to marry a woman (not a sister) that is divorced from her husband, when it is not known whether that divorced husband is dead, and the ordained elder, who performed the marriage ceremony, contends that all is right?

Answer: We consider it wrong for any brother in the ministry to perform such marriage, and also wrong, according to the gospel, for any brother or sister to be married to any such party.

Art. 18. The brethren assembled in council in the Valley of Virginia, being impressed with the importance of having the public more fully enlightened upon the ordinances, have agreed to adopt the plan at our communion meetings, when it is expedient, in the afternoon service, to occupy the time in discussing these subjects before the commencement of the evening exercises. Will the Annual Meeting approve of this plan, insert it on the minutes, and recommend it?

Answer: While we strongly recommend the defense of the ordinances, we leave it to the discretion of the churches to decide the time and place of their defense.

Art. 19. Inasmuch as it is the order of the brethren that sisters should wear caps, what should be done with a sister in case of stubbornness? And should there be any allowance made for the unmarried?

Answer: We consider it is the duty of all the sisters to have on a plain covering at the time of worship.

Art. 20. What shall be done in such a case as follows: There is a brother and sister living here who claim to have stood in full fellowship with a church called Dunkards, in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. When asked for a certificate, the brother said the church from which they moved did not give certificates, allowing that their conduct should suffice, and this has been quite satisfactory to the members of this church.

Answer: We consider it right, in all cases, when members move from one arm of the church to another, that they shall present to the church wherein they wish to reside, a certificate, to prove their membership in the church from whence they came,



or give satisfaction to the church of which they wish to become members.

Art. 21. Would it not be better, instead of asking the consent of each individual member concerning the reception of an applicant, to make the request general, that is, ask the church as a body whether they are willing to receive such applicant, and if they are, let silence give consent; and if not, that member who is not willing to receive such applicant, shall have full privilege to state his or her objections?

Answer: This is left optional to each arm of the church.

Art. 22. How is it considered for sisters to wear hoops, and to conform themselves to the new fashions of the world—shall we tolerate it or not?

Answer: The answer to the third query of last Yearly Meeting is re-adopted.

Art. 23. Is it agreeable to the gospel and the rule of the brethren for a bishop to put the office of elder or second degree of the ministry upon a brother, when it appears the majority of the members present are opposed, and so are also two elders who are present? And when it is proposed to take the voice or vote of the church, that is also refused, but he puts the office upon him when he has got his hat on and when he is quarreling with another brother, and when nearly all the members have left, all but eight or ten? And is such a brother legally installed into office?

Answer: We consider such a brother not legally installed. And we consider, according to the gospel, that the bishop who did so, should make satisfaction to the church.

Art. 24. How is it considered when a brother commits an offense against the church, and the church takes his case into consideration? He acknowledges the offense, and is sorry for it, and asks forgiveness; has the church a right to advise him not to commune?

Answer: If the church forgives him, and receives him into full fellowship, it has no right to forbid him to commune.

Art. 25. Is it right, according to the gospel, for a brother to buy land that is sold by the county for taxes?

Answer: We consider that it is wrong for brethren to do so, when done for speculation.

Art. 26. What is to be done with a brother that buys whiskey



by the barrel, and sells it to such as he thinks use it temperately, and when admonished once and again not to sell, he says he will be more careful to sell to none but those who use it temperately?

Answer: Any brother dealing in intoxicating liquors, if he continues to do so after being admonished, can not be fellowshipped as a brother.

Art. 27. A person was baptized, and thus became a member of the church; afterward thought he was not in the right state of mind when he had been baptized, and felt that if he would die in this state he would be lost, and then made application to be re-baptized. The brethren in the congregation tried to reconcile him, and could not, and also sent strange and elder brethren to talk with him, who also failed to satisfy him. After repeated and continued application for re-baptism, a brother, without the counsel of the church, baptized him over again, when he became reconciled. Now, did the brother who re-baptized the person do his duty?

Answer: We think he did not do his duty, but did wrong.

Art. 28. Can the church hold in fellowship persons living as husband and wife, while the husband's former wife is living, from whom he was divorced, but not for the cause of fornication?

Answer: We consider, according to Matt. 19: 9, that the church can not hold such in fellowship.

Art. 29. Is it right for a son to put his father on the county to be kept, both being members of the church? And if not right, where does the father belong? in the district where he is on the county, or in that from which he was taken?

Answer: We consider it wrong for a son or brother to do so. And the father, under the circumstances stated, would, of course, belong to the district from which he was taken.

Art. 30. What shall we do with brethren of whom the world complains to the church for neglecting to pay their debts, and for causing disappointments to their creditors?

Answer: If the brethren can and will not pay their debts, they should be dealt with according to the gospel, as offending members.

Art. 31. Will the brethren, at Annual Meeting, consider it right to establish Sunday-schools? and if they do consider it right, will they consider it right for members of the church, and their children, to attend Sunday-school celebrations?

Answer: We consider it right to have Sunday-schools, if conducted by brethren, but not to have celebrations.



Art. 32. Where ministering brethren have difficulties in the church, and when they are not in full fellowship with the church, in breaking bread, etc., may they still continue to preach and appoint meetings?

Answer: We consider that such brethren should be reconciled to the church before they make appointments to preach.

Art. 33. Would it not be advisable, when an election is to be held for both a speaker and a deacon, at the same time, to hold the election for the speaker first, and make the result known, and then hold the election for the deacon or deacons, as the case may be?

Answer: We consider it would be advisable to do so.

Art. 34. Can this Annual Meeting allow brethren, and especially the bishops and ministering brethren, to suffer their children, while under their control, to follow all the foolish fashions, such as wearing of hoops, and unnecessary ornaments of the body?

Answer: We consider that such things should not be tolerated by the brethren while they can reasonably be prevented.

Art. 35. Is the practice of one ministering brother doing all the vocal praying in the assemblies of Christians, and ending his prayer with the Lord's prayer, more like the apostolic advice and practice than that of our brethren formerly, when two exercised in vocal prayer?

Answer: We consider it is not, when there are several brethren present.

Art. 36. Is the practice good and sustained in the gospel for the church enjoining on the believing wives of teachers the duty of aiding, by their humble example and chaste conversation, their husbands in the solemn duty laid upon them?

Answer: We consider such a practice in perfect harmony with the spirit of the gospel.

Art. 37. Why are not the sisters, who become wives of ministers after they are appointed to the ministry, called upon in the church to promise the same duties as the sisters who are wives at the time their husbands are appointed to the office?

Answer: We consider they should be, according to the practice of the church touching those who are wives of brethren when the latter are appointed to office.

Art. 38. If the servants of the church, receiving the office



of teaching, and after a while become more worldly in appearance and manner, whose duty is it to admonish them? Is it the duty of any member, or only the duty of the minister?

Answer: We consider it to be the duty of any member to admonish such in the spirit of meekness and love.

Art. 39. How is it considered when visiting brethren will, in meeting, get upon their feet and speak when there are elected speakers present, and sometimes speak thirty minutes or upward, and that without liberty from the speakers? If that is not in order for visiting brethren, what is the order? Is it to stand upon their feet when they have any thing to say, or to keep their seats?

Answer: We consider it out of order for visiting brethren to do so, without liberty being given by ministering brethren, if such are present.

Art. 40. Has a church a right to exclude a member before informing him of the charge they have against him; and if not, what course should a member pursue that has been disowned that way?

Answer: The church has no right to do so without duly notifying him, and if they do so, he is entitled to a re-hearing, with the assistance of elders from other churches.

Art. 41. What will the Annual Council advise in the following cases, viz.: A number of brethren in district A become prejudiced against the body of the church and will not attend council and other meetings, after being cited frequently to do so. But they will attend meetings and councils in district B, or the adjoining district, and they also will contribute means and money for the benefit of the said district B, to the entire neglect of their own district? Also, what will Annual Council say of the brethren in district B who encourage those brethren of district A to continue in such a practice?

Answer: We consider it wrong for brethren to aid other districts and to neglect their own, and we also consider it wrong for a neighboring church to pursue such a course as district B is said to have done.

Art. 42. How is it considered if a brother has any grievance against another brother, so that he will say he will never break the bread of communion with that brother? But the offended brother does not pursue the course directed in Matt. 18, but will go and break bread where the brother who has offended him is not present, and after some years tells this brother that



he will never go to the communion with him. Is it right for members to do so, or, have members any right, after they go to a communion, to say any thing afterward about difficulties which had existed before?

Answer: We consider a brother has no right, under such circumstances, to commune until he shall have become reconciled to his brother.

Art. 43. Is it in accordance with the word of God to have supper on the table before washing feet?

Answer: We consider that it is.

Art. 44. Is it according to the word of God when a committee of brethren come into a church or district to examine and settle difficulties, to withdraw before they have heard the members in church council, or to withdraw afterward, and then hear each member separately, and then decide without giving the members concerned any knowledge of it or any opportunity to answer complaints made against them?

Answer: We consider that it should be left optional with the committee, after having the parties face to face.

Art. 45. Is it in accordance with the gospel for the standing committee of the Yearly Meeting to send a committee into a church, if desired by such that are expelled from the church according to Matt. 18, the church having no knowledge of it?

Answer: No; but the church which has expelled him should call a committee, if the expelled member requests it.

Art. 46. Is it according to the word of God for such persons as are excommunicated from the church council, the salutation, and the communion, according to Matt. 18, to come before the committee, and can their complaints against members be received as evidence?

Answer: No.

Art. 47. How is it considered when two members of the church, a visiting brother and his wife, see another visiting brother intoxicated; afterward these two brethren visit the church and commune together, and some two months afterward the first brother named and a private brother saw the same brother again, as they thought, with too much liquor. Still there is no complaint made to the church until some six or seven months after the first transgression, though there have been two or three church meetings held in the time. Then the first brother named lays in com-



plaint. What is now the duty of the church in this and such like cases?

Answer: We consider both parties are in fault, and they should be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 48. How is it considered if a visiting brother, at a meeting where there are five or six ordained brethren, hears something said which does not suit him, and, after two or three have spoken, arises up and explains the subject according to his own view?

Answer: We consider it out of order for visiting brethren to rise and speak when ministering brethren are present, unless asked by them to do so.

Art. 49. Should the hand be withheld or offered, as connected with the admonition, in admonishing a brother?

Answer: We consider that the right hand of friendship may be offered, supposing it to be included in the admonition.

Art. 50. Is it advisable to hold an election for a minister or deacon in one part of a congregation (in that in which it is most needed), and none but the members in that part voting, it being too small to form a separate church, providing the whole church consents to hold such an election?

Answer: We consider it advisable to do so.

Art. 51. How is it considered if a member that has been excommunicated, makes application to be received again, and there is a council-meeting held, and a complaint is made against him so that he can not be received, and some one goes and tells the excommunicated member all that has been said against him in council? How is such a member to be dealt with?

Answer: We consider it very wrong to report any thing done in council to such persons, except the charges made against them.

Art. 52. Would it be against the order of the gospel, or of the brethren, for a church, if the members agree to do so, to hold a love-feast, without tendering an invitation to any of the members of the adjoining churches but the ministering brethren?

Answer: We consider if a church, for want of room, or for other good reasons, thinks it proper to hold a love-feast without giving a general invitation, it may be permitted to do so.

Art. 53. Is it in accordance with the gospel to pronounce a benediction over the people at the close of a funeral service at the grave? And, if so, what should be the form?



Answer: We have no authority in the gospel for doing so, and no such custom among the brethren to sanction it.

Art. 54. Who are the elders spoken of by James, that are to be sent to anoint the sick in the name of the Lord?

Answer: The ordained elders, if they can be obtained; if not, the next in office.

Art. 55. Which is the most advisable in holding council-meetings, to ask each individual member for his consent, or to take silence for consent?

Answer: In all weighty matters it is best for each member to answer.

Art. 56. Is the testimony of one witness sufficient authority to expel a member, under any circumstance, when the accused denies and objects to the testimony?

Answer: One witness is not sufficient, in general, but we will not say that under no circumstances one is not sufficient.

Art. 57. Can a member, who is accused of some fault, give testimony before the church?

Answer: While a person is a member of the church his testimony can not be altogether set at naught by the church.

Art. 58. Inasmuch as the brethren in Annual Council of 1856 have recommended the churches to hold district or council-meetings, and with this we have complied; now, we wish to know whether we should take minutes of our proceedings?

Answer: We consider that no query of importance, acted on by the sub-district meeting, should be confirmed until presented to the Annual Meeting for its sanction.

Art. 59. If a man and his wife leave one church and go into another, with a recommendation from the former, which is received by the latter; after awhile the sister leaves her husband, the brother, and returns to the church which she first left, charging her husband with crimes committed before the recommendation was given. Not bringing a recommendation from the church from which she last came, the former receives her or retains her as a member, and acts on the case of her husband and expels him. Did this church do right?

Answer: We consider that no church should receive a member from another without a certificate, or to expel a member without a hearing.

Art. 60. How shall we regard the conduct of a brother who



travels through different churches, and when he comes into the congregation he falls down on his knees and makes a private prayer, mortifying some of the members? Had he not better make his private prayers where no human eye can see him?

Answer: We think it is out of order to do so, and the brother should do so no more.

Art. 61. Is it consistent with the gospel, and the order of the brethren, for wealthy brethren to make it a rule or custom, when they lend money to poor brethren or others, to make those who borrow the money pay the tax on the money, when they receive interest on the money? If not consistent with the gospel, what is to be done with such a brother?

Answer: We think it is not consistent with the gospel to take more than lawful interest. (See Luke 3: 13.) We think such a brother should be admonished by the church, and if he will not hear the church, he should be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 62. Has a brother the right to put the law in force against his brother, to collect money, in any shape or form whatever, without giving him notice before?

Answer: In no case whatever.

Art. 63. Will the brethren, in Annual Council, consider it right for ministering brethren to receive members into the church without requesting them to lay off the fashions of the world in regard to apparel, and to conform to the order of the brethren?

Answer: We consider it would not be right to do so. (See Rom. 12: 2.)

Art. 64. How is it considered if members owe a just debt, and suffer themselves to be sued? Has the church a right to bring such members before the church, and to investigate the case, to see whether such members have done their duty?

Answer: We consider it has.

Art. 65. Would it not be more in accordance with the gospel, and the example of Christ, to omit returning thanks between the supper and the communion?

Answer: We think it best to return thanks, according to 1. Thess. 5: 18.

Art. 66. We wish to have the first query in the minutes of the last Yearly Meeting reconsidered, and a more definite answer given.



Answer: In reconsidering the query alluded to, we conclude that we can not give a more definite answer than was given in 1858, query 40, and in 1861, query 1.

Art. 67. When a person, having received baptism in the same way that we perform it, but by a minister of a different denomination, wishes to be united to the brethren, must such a person be re-baptized in order to be received into our church?

Answer: We refer to the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1848, Art. 5.

Art. 68. How shall we proceed in case a sick member requests the communion? Will any time do? And must feet-washing and the supper accompany the communion?

Answer: We consider it best to administer it in the evening, according to the example of Christ. John 13.

Art. 69. How is it considered when ministering brethren, after preaching, go into the congregation and invite persons to join the church?

Answer: We consider it best to do as was done in Acts 2.

Art. 70. Requests for committees: 1. A committee for Rush Creek Church, Hocking County, Ohio. The following brethren form the committee: John P. Ebersole, Elias Dicky, and H. Davy. 2. A committee to visit the Elk Lick Church, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. John Kline and John Wine were appointed on this committee, with authority to add one to the number.

Art. 71. Resolved, by this council-meeting, that no query shall be presented to the Annual Conference without being signed by the elders, in the name of the church in which it originates.

Art. 72. Requests for the Annual Meeting: 1. A request from northern Illinois, for the Annual Meeting of 1864, or as soon as it can be had. 2. A renewal of the request of the Nettle Creek Church, Wayne County, Indiana, for 1864. 3. The request of the Clover Creek Church, Blair County, Pennsylvania, for the Annual Meeting of 1863, was renewed, and granted. Our next Annual Meeting will, therefore, the Lord willing, be held with the brethren in Blair County, Pennsylvania, on Pentecost, 1863.

Brethren from the east and southeast will go to Huntingdon, on the Pennsylvania Central Railroad; there take the Huntingdon and Broadtop Railroad to Cove Station, which is four miles and a half from the place of meeting. Those from the west will stop at Altoona, and take the branch to Hollidaysburg, which is



about fourteen miles from the place of meeting; or, if they prefer to do so, they can go to Huntingdon, and then take the route the brethren from the east are directed to take. Correspondence can be held with Daniel M. Holsinger and George Brumbaugh, Martinsburg, Blair County, Pennsylvania.

P. S.—Inasmuch as the old clerk, Henry Kurtz, declined the clerk's office, offered him by the standing committee, the giving out of certificates and return tickets on the railroads was left to him, with authority to call in the assistance of other brethren, especially since illness made him almost totally unfit for business.

Signed in behalf of the meeting and general committee

D. P. Sayler, J. Quinter, Clerks.

John Kline, Moderator.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1863.

Clover Creek Church, Blair County, Pa.

The religious exercises began Saturday morning, and were continued on the Lord's-day in different places, and likewise every evening while the meeting lasted. On Monday morning the meeting was organized for business, by the nomination of a standing committee, before which appeared the delegates of the several churches, handing in their letters and queries. The business then was distributed among fourteen committees for investigation, and on Tuesday morning the public discussion commenced of those matters laid before the meeting. They were as follows:

Article 1. How are we to deal with our brethren who have enlisted and gone to the army as soldiers or teamsters, or those who have been drafted, and are gone to the army?

We think it not expedient to consider (or discuss) these questions at this time. Still it is believed, and was expressed, the gospel gave sufficient instruction.

Art. 2. How is it considered if a brother goes to law with an outsider, without the counsel of the church, and causes quite a conspicuous lawsuit; how are we to deal with such a one according to the gospel? Are we to visit him, according to Matt. 18, or bring the case before the church at once?

Bring it before the church at once.

Art. 3. How are we to deal with sisters who are wearing hoops?

They should be admonished once and again; and if they will



not heed the admonitions, they should be dealt with according to Matt. 18. (See Minutes of 1861, Art. 3.)

Art. 4. Is it contrary to the gospel to have lamb's meat at the Lord's Supper?

We think not; but since the gospel does not give a precept or example of what the supper did or shall consist, the members should try to be in union, love, and forbearance in this matter. (See Minutes of 1853, Art. 21, and 1855, Art. 20.)

Art. 5. What should be done with a brother that would preach that slavery was right according to the Scriptures, and cause discord among the brethren?

Inasmuch as the brethren always believed, and believe yet, that slavery is a great evil, and contrary to the doctrine of Christ, we consider it utterly wrong for a brother to justify slavery, either in public or in private, and that he should be admonished, and if obstinate, shall be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 6. Would it not be expedient and consistent that the brethren forming the standing committee of the Annual Meeting of the brethren should open and examine all questions (sent in by the several churches, and assort them), and thereby save an amount of unnecessary labor and time spent, as there are frequently two, three, and even more, queries of the same import and meaning sent in, and acted upon (separately reported hitherto by different committees) at the same conference, which, we think, could be avoided in a great measure?

Considered, it is expedient.

Art. 7. A woman leaves her husband because he committed adultery, and he then leaves the neighborhood. About three years after the woman marries again, having obtained a divorce from her former husband, and after the expiration of another three years, both the woman and the husband she now has, apply to the church to become members, the woman not having heard from her discarded husband all that time; can she be received?

We think they can not be received without the church being satisfied that the first husband be dead. 1 Cor. 7: 39.

Art. 8. How is it considered if brethren appoint meetings, and invite speakers from other congregations, who conform themselves too much to the fashions of the world by wearing apparel, and those appointments and invitations are made without the consent of the church or bishop, and are offensive to some members?



We think members should not do so without the consent of the elder or the church.

Art. 9. If one brother should demand and receive more interest from another brother than the law allows, and the latter acquiesces for years, but finally becomes dissatisfied, must he make the complaint to the church, or commence in the ordinary way, by going first privately to the offending brother, etc.?

Answer: The dissatisfied brother should proceed according to Matt. 18, and the offending brother should refund the unlawful interest as far as the church in which both reside may judge equitable.

Art. 10. If one brother clandestinely slanders another, then gets a letter of recommendation and removes from the church before the slandered brother is aware of the offense against him, how is the offended brother to proceed?

The offended brother should request the church where he lives to assist him in getting a reconciliation.

Art. 11. Is it in accordance with the direction of the apostle (1 Tim. 2: 1, etc.,) to have any exhortation before prayer, on opening meeting?

We do not consider Paul's exhortation confined to opening the meeting, and therefore believe a word of exhortation to prayer very proper in opening the meeting, provided the exhortation is short, and confined principally to prayer.

Art. 12. Inasmuch as it is the decision of the council of the Yearly Meeting that members who commit the sin of fornication should be expelled from the church, according to 1 Cor. 5, how is it considered when a church retains members who have committed that sin, upon a confession of being sorry for it?

Answer: Not consistent with the word of God (1 Cor. 5.) nor with the ancient order of the church.

Art. 13. When a member of the church is known to be in a fault, the church sends the visiting brethren to the offending members, to invite them to the council-meeting; the visiting brethren, on their way, are apprised of another member having committed a fault; have they a right to invite this member, also, to the council-meeting, or must they first go back to the church to get authority for this second case?

They have a right to visit and invite the member to council-meeting.

Art. 14. How is it considered concerning a brother in the



following case: A certain man, not a member of our church, forges a note to the amount of three hundred and seventy-five dollars against said brother, and a summons is issued and served by the sheriff for this (false) debt against him. In consequence of this, the brother testifies against the forger before a court of justice, who is convicted, and sentenced to the state prison for a term of years?

Considered, that the brother should have first taken counsel of the church.

Art. 15. Is it in accordance with the gospel to have stands or pulpits erected in our meeting-houses?

We have no direct gospel upon this subject, but we advise the brethren not to put pupits or stands in their houses of worship, when by so doing confusion and disunion may be produced.

Art. 16. Has an ordained elder, according to the brethren's order, the right to come into an adjoining district, and bring a committee along with him, and there reconsider matters without the counsel of the church, over which, also, an ordained elder presides?

Considered, that no ordained elder has a right to do so [in ordinary cases.]

Art. 17. What plan will the Yearly Meeting recommend or adopt, that all the brethren must bear an equal share in paying the fines government will impose upon those brethren who may be drafted into the military service?

In this case it is recommended by this Yearly Meeting that each member should be willing to contribute according to the true avails of their property, according to Gal. 6: 2.

Art. 18. Inasmuch as some brethren manifest a desire to prohibit brethren from voting at our common (political) elections, do not the brethren in Yearly Council see it to be best to make no change differing from the counsel and practice of our ancient brethren in these days of trouble?

In the present crisis we recommend that brethren abstain as much as possible from attending elections, according to John 18: 36; 2 Cor. 6: 14-17.

Art. 19. Is it consistent with the gospel and the order of the brethren for a brother who lays a complaint of bad conduct of another member before the church, to state the case himself, in the presence of the member complained of and the church, or



shall the elders of the church state it for him, and thus conceal him?

Let the manner of proceeding in such cases be left to the discretion of the church.

Art. 20. Can an arm of the church (or a local church) be congregational or act independent from all the churches of our fraternity, and still be in full union with the church?

It can not, according to the gospel and the order of the brethren. (See Romans 12: 4, 5; 1 Cor. 1: 10; Eph. 4: 3, 4, etc.)

Art. 21. Whereas, there has obtained, of late years, some difference in observing the Lord's Supper among different churches, some setting the supper on the table before feet-washing, while some do not till after (the latter being the old universal practice); whereas the proceedings of the Annual Meeting of last year, in Article 43, have grieved some of our brethren; and, whereas, a conciliatory course should always be pursued when brethren have a preference, as it regards the mode or way of observing an ordinance, so that it is properly observed, and no part of divine truth sacrificed, we therefore recall the decision of the Annual Meeting above referred to, and let the subject of the time of putting the supper on the table stand precisely where it stood previous to the decision of 1862, with the understanding that the churches may and should continue, without making any change either way, until we have further light on the subject, to bring about a more full union.

Art. 22. Which is according to the gospel, to transact church business at our common council-meeting? Shall they be public before the world, or in the presence of our members only?

Considered, to be according to the gospel that members only should compose the council-meeting. (See Matt. 10, which whole chapter is directed to disciples alone; Matt. 17: 17, where it says of the disciples coming to Jesus apart; and in Mark 6: 31, Jesus says himself to his disciples, "Come ye yourselves apart," etc., etc., etc.)

Art. 23. Would it not be better for the church if this Yearly Meeting would adopt the district meetings, so that the different states may form their districts as they may see proper?

Considered, to leave this matter as it stands on the minutes of 1856, Article 23.

Art. 24. Would it not be for the better to have the minutes of the Annual Meeting in the "Visitor" once a year, provided the editors were willing?



Considered, not advisable to have the minutes printed in the "Visitor."

Art. 25. Is it according to Scripture for (any or) each brother of the church to have the privilege to appoint meetings, attend the same, and preach?

We think it not in accordance with the gospel, nor promotive of love and union, but rather a fruitful source of contention, strife, and disunion; therefore, no brother should assume such authority, neither should any brother encourage such in their proceedings; and if a brother will preach contrary to the will of the church he can not do it in the name of the church. Approved by this Yearly Meeting.

Art. 26. If brethren, not elected, being endowed with the gift of prophecy, and moved by the Holy Ghost to occupy, with their talents, as their Lord commands, and being called on by the people to preach, have the bishops of the church any authority from the gospel to forbid it, merely because they are not elected, provided he or they preach Jesus to edification, exhortation, and comfort, and their appointments do not conflict with any regular meetings of the church?

As the apostle directs the spirit of the prophets to be subject to the prophets (1 Cor. 14: 35,) and as God is said to be the author of peace, and not of confusion (verse 33), and as the apostle asks the question, "How shall they preach except they be sent?" (Romans 10: 15), and as Christ selected, from the number of his disciples, those that he designed to preach the gospel, it appears by the gospel not only proper but necessary that there should be a regular induction of those who are to officiate as ministers into the office of the ministry, and therefore we can not sanction the idea entertained by some, that any brother may go out and appoint meetings for preaching.

Art. 27. Would it not be well to have the ninth query of 1861 reconsidered?

Considered, that we can not better it.

Art. 28. With regard to the question whether a brother minister was rightly dealt with who has taken the liberty to do servile work on the Lord's-day repeatedly, and notwithstanding he has been admonished again and again, continues to defend and pursue his course to the offense of many in and out of the church, it appears that the church, with a chosen committee of elders, has decided that the brother has either to quit this practice, or the exercise of his ministry. The standing committee unanimously confirms this decision.



Art. 29. Requests for committees. 1. A committee for Tulpehaccon Church, Pennsylvania; granted, and Henry Kurtz, Peter Long, John G. Glock, and Isaac Myer, appointed. 2. A committee for Lower Shenandoah Church, Virginia; granted, and Henry Kurtz, Henry Davy, Jacob Wine, John Kline, Daniel P. Sayler, and Daniel Thomas, nominated. Another request for a committee was not granted, because it did not come from the church, which it ought to do in all cases.

Art. 30. Requests for the Yearly Meeting. 1. From the Nettle Creek Church, Indiana; twice repeated before. 2. From Northern Illinois; repeated the second time. 3. From Antietam Church, Pennsylvania, for the meeting in 1865.

The request of our brethren in Wayne County, Indiana, was granted—to have the Yearly Meeting in 1864. Hagerstown, of said county, on the Cincinnati & Chicago Air-Line Railroad, will be the station to stop at; the place of meeting is one mile from this station. Bro. David Hardman and David Bowman (Hagerstown post-office), will give all further information to those who may address them.

Art. 31. About railroad privileges for next year. Bro. David Hardman and other corresponding members of the above church, where the next Yearly Meeting will take place, will make proper arrangements for the privilege of railroads, usually granted, to make timely applications at the different companies in their immediate vicinity. Bro. D. P. Sayler was appointed to attend to the obtaining of the favor from the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad; Bro. C. Custer to attend to the same on the Pennsylvania Central; John Metzger for other roads in the west, and Henry Kurtz for the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railway.

Art. 32. Resolved, that this meeting return its thanks to those railroad companies that have granted the favor of excursion tickets, for their kindness.

From our records it appears that this year one hundred and fifty-three churches were represented by thirty-seven ordained elders, sixty-five ministers in the second, and seventeen in the third degree, twenty-nine deacons, and ten private members, and the whole meeting passed off in a pleasant, and, we trust in God, profitable manner, and was closed Wednesday afternoon with prayer, the crowd dispersing fast.

Signed by the standing committee: John Wine, of Virginia; D. P. Sayler, of Maryland; Samuel Lehman and Christopher Long, of Illinois; Andrew Spanogle, Isaac Meyer, and John Holsinger, of Pennsylvania; Henry D. Davy and Daniel Miller, of Ohio; John



Metzger and F. P. Loehr, of Indiana; David Brower, of Iowa.

Henry Kurtz, James Quinter, Clerks.

John Kline, Moderator.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1864.

Hagerstown Church, Wayne County, Ind.

By the kind permission of our heavenly Father a very large number of brethren were permitted to meet, according to previous arrangements. The religious services commenced on Saturday, and were continued until Monday noon. The multitude present was very large. On Lord's-day there was preaching at six places. There seemed to be a considerable desire manifested to hear preaching, and good attention was manifested to the word preached.

On Monday morning the meeting was organized for business by appointing a standing committee and the necessary officers. The delegates then reported themselves; whereupon it was ascertained that there were represented in this meeting one hundred and fifty churches. These churches were represented by two hundred and thirty delegates; these delegates were divided as follows: Ordained elders seventy-two; elders, ninety-two; teachers, twenty-two; deacons, twenty-five; private members, eighteen. The business was then distributed among twelve sub-committees. These commenced reporting on Tuesday morning, and the business to be transacted was thus brought before the General Council, and we hope, in the fear of God, acted upon. The following queries were presented to the meeting and the annexed answers given:

Article 1. In no less than four papers the question is presented, whether it is right and proper for a brother to go to, or take part in, political elections, it being specially stated that it had caused hard feelings and disunion?

Answer: We have been led to think that at all times it would be best and most consistent with our profession, and specially most proper and safe in the present critical state of things, to have nothing at all to do with politics, and entirely to abstain from voting. (See 2 Cor. 6: 14-17, also Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1863, Article 18.)

Art. 2. If a sister has a husband that is not a member in the church, and it is known that he is an adulterer, is it consistent with the gospel for her to live with him and be his wife?



And if it is not consistent for her to do so, has she a right to get a bill of divorcement according to law?

Answer: As to the first part of the query, we think it should be left to her choice whether to live with him or not. And as to the second, we say, with Paul (1 Cor. 7: 10, 11), "But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried."

Art. 3. Is it right, according to the tenor of the gospel, for brethren to erect lightning rods upon their buildings, and to have their property and lives insured?

Answer: As to lightning rods, we fully agree with the answer given by the Yearly Meeting of 1851, Article 7: "Considered, that we would not advise brethren to do so, nor would we say to those who have them, to take them down, but advise all our dear brethren to bear with each other in such matters, and to try to put their chief trust in God." We likewise agree with the Annual Meeting of 1847, concerning the insurance of property: "Considered, that we can not advise brethren to do so, neither could we forbid its being done in a mutual way." But as to getting their lives insured, we advise the brethren to make use of no such privilege.

Art. 4. Inasmuch as there are many members of our churches traveling from one state to another, and staying from home from four to eight months, would it not be better for members, under such circumstances, to obtain a certificate of membership from the church in which they live?

Answer: We think it would be better to do so.

Art. 5. Is it in accordance with the gospel for brethren to donate money toward building meeting-houses of other denominations?

Answer: Finding no gospel upon the subject alluded to in the query, we leave it to every one's conscience to direct in the case.

Art. 6. Have the brethren a gospel-right to serve as jurors when the authorities call for them?

Answer: No; as we are admonished by the apostle (2 Cor. 6: 14-18.)

Art. 7. When the apostles prohibit the wearing of gold and pearls (1 Tim. 2: 9; 1 Peter 3: 3), are gold watches to be included?

Answer: As the carrying of gold watches may, and is likely to, lead to pride, we think it advisable not to wear them.

Art. 8. How is it considered by the brethren in yearly council assembled, in relation to members who do not conform to the



order of the brethren in the wearing of apparel, and in the wearing of their hair, but follow the fashions of the world?

Answer: We think that the ministering brethren should heartily admonish and urge the members to conform to the order of the brethren, and set them a good example; and if those who are admonished again and again, and that by the church too, as well as by the ministers, will not hear, the word of God directs us what to do with them. (Matt. 18.)

Art. 9. How does the Annual Meeting decide upon the following case: A brother is totally blind, and his occupation for a living is dealing in groceries and in nearly all kinds of intoxicating liquors. He was engaged in that business before belonging to the church, and now claims that the church should not prohibit him from selling liquor, since he could not otherwise make a living.

Answer: We consider that it is entirely wrong for any brother, whether blind or not, to sell intoxicating liquors.

Art. 10. Is it considered right, according to the gospel, for a minister to wear a soldier's overcoat when in the pulpit, or at other times; and, if it is not, how is such a brother to be dealt with, if he should continue to wear it after being admonished?

Answer: It is considered not advisable for any brother, whether a minister or private member, to wear any military clothing, and if he is admonished, and still persists in being disobedient, he should be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 11. As the Annual Meeting of 1862 has justly condemned the selling of intoxicating liquors, what does the Annual Meeting say of the practice of such brethren as engage in producing corn and other grain, and sell it to distillers?

Answer: As the Scripture explicitly commands us to "abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5: 22), we consider it best to advise brethren not to sell any grain to distillers.

Art. 12. Inasmuch as there is still a difference of opinion relative to the applicant for baptism declaring his agreement with the church in regard to the principles of non-resistance, non-swearing, and non-conformity to the world, whether this should be done in the presence of the whole congregation, or of the church only, we wish a decisive answer, and not only reference to the minutes of 1848 and 1858, as we have referred to these, but still get into difficulty.

Answer: We think it should be done in the presence of the church only.



Art. 13. As the Annual Meeting has recommended the holding of district meetings, we wish to know from it whether it would be advisable to make a record of the proceedings of such district meetings?

Answer: We would advise to keep no record of proceedings but what is to be submitted to the Annual Meeting.

Art. 14. Does the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1862, Article 58, prohibit us from taking the minutes of the proceedings of our district meetings, for our own benefit?

Answer: Yes, we consider that it does.

Art. 15. How are we to hold a brother that keeps Saturday for the Sabbath, works on Sunday, and strongly contends that he is right?

Answer: Inasmuch as the old brethren have always observed the first day of the week as a day of rest and public worship, we think such a brother should be heartily admonished to conform to the order of the brethren and the gospel, and if he does not do so, he should be dealt with according to the gospel.

Art. 16. Is it right, and according to the gospel, for a brother to invest money in government bonds?

Answer: We consider it not wrong to do so.

Art. 17. Is it wrong to baptize or immerse sick persons in a house?

Answer: We consider it is not advisable to do so whenever it is possible to avoid it.

Art. 18. In case a brother commits a trespass openly before the world, should not such one make his acknowledgments openly before the world also?

Answer: No, he should not.

Art. 19. Inasmuch as all that our Annual Meeting has hitherto done to suppress the excessive or intemperate use of tobacco, in smoking and chewing, has virtually proved a failure, could not this meeting adopt some method by which the excessive use of this growing evil could be suppressed in our brotherhood?

Answer: As the use of tobacco is offensive to some brethren and sisters, and the excessive use of it an evil, we advise and counsel brethren not to use it in time of worship, so as to be either filthy or offensive to others, and we think our ministering brethren should admonish their members not to indulge in the excessive use of it in any way, because it is wrong to do so.



Art. 20. Is it in harmony with gospel principles, and with the practice of the church, for the housekeepers of one church district to reject the counsel or aid of members from neighboring districts, that have come to council or church meeting, as it is customary for brethren to do, and even tell them that they were not needed, so as to sway their council? And if it be not proper, what shall be done with brethren pursuing such a course?

Answer: We consider it improper for the members of one congregation to go, without being invited by another church, and take part in their deliberations, and it is proper to inform them that their aid can be dispensed with, if it is not wanted.

Art. 21. What is to be done with a person, who, after being dismissed from the church, rails against the brethren, and speaks evil of them?

Answer: We think he should be dealt with according to 1 Cor. 5: 11: "Not to keep company with such a one; no, not to eat."

Art. 22. Is it right for a brother to go to an election, and there elect, or help to elect, a brother (who takes no part in elections) to fill an office in which he must either serve or pay his fine?

Answer: We consider it utterly wrong for brethren to do so.

Art. 23. Does this Annual Meeting consider civil government of divine authority, or a mere association for mutual well being?

Answer: We consider that it is of divine authority, from the testimony of the Apostle Paul. (See Rom. 13: 1-8.)

Art. 24. Does the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ allow brethren to act as executors or administrators, especially brethren in office or in the ministry?

Answer: We think the gospel does not forbid brethren to act as executors or administrators.

Art. 25. Is it in accordance with the gospel, and the order of the brethren, for the church to receive and take candidates in with (or by) hand and kiss previous to the reading of Matt. 18, and then baptize them upon their public confession?

Answer: We think it is neither in accordance with the gospel nor the order of the brethren to do so.

Art. 26. Is it consistent with the gospel for the bread and wine to be on the table with the supper, if a majority of any branch of the church thinks it well to have it so?



We think, in case of any change being desired in the established order in any branch of the church, especially with regard to the communion, it would always be best and safest, for the preservation of love and union, to take no steps in any change of this kind until the whole church is united, and neighboring churches or the district meeting consulted.

Art. 27. Is it right for members of our church to meet members of other denominations, with hand and kiss, the same as we meet our own members?

Answer: We think it not right to salute them as members.

Art. 28. Is it according to the gospel, and the order of the brethren, to receive and baptize into the church such as are in the military service, bearing arms in this war, or to go into the camps and baptize such, and let them remain in the service, or should they not first get a full discharge before they can be received into the church by baptism?

Answer: We can not encourage such proceedings; but in case of extreme sickness, and when there is a promise to shed no more blood, we will let the churches applied to decide what shall be done; but let the principles of the church be acceded to by all candidates.

Art. 29. A brother being legally elected to the ministry a year ago, and refuses to be installed, and seldom attends church; what shall be done in such a case?

Answer: The brother should be admonished, and encouraged to attend meetings and accept of his office, and the brethren should try to bear with him as long as the wants of the church will permit; but if he will not serve, and the church needs laborers, then it should elect others.

Art. 30. A minister in the first degree moves into another district, and while absent from the first, is advanced to the second degree in the district into which he moved. During this time another brother was chosen to the ministry in the first district, and advanced to the second degree, his election having taken place after the first-named speaker's advancement. Now, the first-named speaker moves back into the first district, after an absence of ten years, with a certificate certifying his good standing in the church in which he had been living. Now, according to the gospel, and the order of the brethren, which of the two is next to the elder or bishop? or does the first brother forfeit his standing by moving away from the flock?

Answer: The brother longest in the ministry, if a worthy minister, is next to the elder.



Art. 31. Since the Yearly Meeting favors district meetings for the purpose of adjusting local difficulties, and to lessen the labor of the Yearly Meeting, would it not be advisable to form regular districts in each state, and close them with lines, that individual churches may know to what district they belong? And, if so, should not this Yearly Meeting appoint brethren in each state to form such districts in their respective states, and close them by making such lines?

Answer: Yes; but we will leave the districting of the states to the churches in the respective states.

Art. 32. What authority have we in the New Testament for three orders or grades in the ministry? And if there be not three grades, how many are set forth in the word of Christ and the apostles?

Answer: We defer this question to the next Annual Meeting, recommending the brethren to examine the scripture upon the subject.

Art. 33. Will this Annual Meeting adopt some form or order for forwarding ministers from one degree to another, as it has been differently performed heretofore?

Answer: The order of the brethren, as already given by the Annual Meeting, is to forward brethren by the hand and kiss.

Art. 34. How is it considered by the Annual Meeting, if a brother or sister present a certificate of membership where they wish to reside, and after awhile demand it again, and receive it; do they thereby withdraw their membership from said district of the church?

Answer: We think they can not withdraw their membership legally by so doing, and that certificates should not be given up under such circumstances.

Art. 35. As our national troubles, consequent upon the rebellion now existing in our country, have caused considerable difficulty in our church, and have tried our non-resistant principles, and have caused several questions concerning the paying of bounty-money, voting, etc., to come before this council-meeting, what counsel will this Annual Meeting give upon these subjects?

Answer: We exhort the brethren to steadfastness in the faith, and believe that the times in which our lots are cast strongly demand of us a strict adherence to all our principles, and especially to our non-resistant principle, a principle dear to every subject of the Prince of Peace, and a prominent doctrine of our fra-



ternity, and to endure whatever sufferings and to make whatever sacrifice the maintaining of the principle may require, and not to encourage in any way the practice of war. And we think it more in accordance with our principles, that instead of paying bounty-money, and especially in taking an active part in raising bounty-money, to await the demands of the government, whether general, state, or local, and pay the fines and taxes required of us, as the gospel permits, and, indeed, requires. Matt. 22: 21; Rom. 13: 7. And lest the position we have taken upon political matters in general, and war matters in particular, should seem to make us, as a body, appear to be indifferent to our government, or in opposition thereto, in its efforts to suppress the rebellion, we hereby declare that it has our sympathies and our prayers, and that it shall have our aid in any way which does not conflict with the principles of the gospel of Christ. But since, in our Christian profession, we regard these gospel principles as superior or paramount to all others, consistency requires that we so regard them in our practices.

Art. 36. It having been agreed upon, at a former time, that our Yearly Meetings should be held alternately in the east and west, the Allegheny Mountains being considered the dividing line, it is requested that this meeting change that line to the Ohio River.

This request was granted.

Art. 37. Would it not be good to make some change in holding our Yearly Meetings, for the purpose of preventing so great a multitude of people from being present? And would it not, also be better to have the conference more private, and not to name on the minutes who were chosen on the standing committee, or who was clerk, etc?

Answer: We think it not expedient to make any change at this time.

Art. 38. Requests for committees: 1. A request from the church of Appanoose, Iowa, for a committee to visit it to settle difficulties existing therein. The request was granted, and the following brethren appointed: David Brower, Jacob Brower, John Murray, and Jacob Waters. 2. A request from the Paint Creek Church, Ross County, Ohio, for a committee. Referred to the elders present April 28th last, and to the church at Bear Creek, to do as they may see fit.

Art. 39. Requests for the Annual Meeting: 1. Request from the Antietam Church, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, for the meeting in 1865, which was granted. 2. A request from northern Illinois, for the meeting in 1866. This request was accompanied



by a request to have the meeting two weeks later than the ordinary time of holding it, because of the latitude of that locality, and it was concluded that if the meeting is held in northern Illinois, the request of the brethren there, as regards the time, should be granted, it being understood that the change of time is only for that special occasion. 3. A request from the Pipe Creek Church, Carroll County, Maryland, for the meeting in 1867. The request from the Antietam Church being granted, the Annual Meeting of 1865 will, the Lord willing, be held with that church.

The following information is given for the satisfaction of brethren wishing to attend the meeting: Those going from the west, via Pittsburg, on the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, will take the Cumberland Valley Railroad at Harrisburg, and stop at Greencastle. Those going by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, will stop at Martinsburg, Virginia, and then take stage to Hagerstown, Maryland. They will then take the Cumberland Valley Railroad to Greencastle. The distance from Greencastle to the meeting, and the names of the brethren with whom correspondence can be held, will be given hereafter in the "Visitor," as soon as ascertained.

Art. 40. Resolved, that this meeting returns its thanks to such railroad companies as have granted the favor of excursion tickets for their kindness.

The meeting closed Wednesday noon, after the proceedings, and all who were present, were commended to God by prayer. Much Christian love was manifested among the brethren, and it is hoped the labors of the meeting will be acceptable and profitable to the church.

Standing committee, etc.: John Kline, John Wine, Virginia; Daniel P. Sayler, Maryland; Leonard Furry, David Gerlach, Pennsylvania; Henry Davy, James Quinter, Ohio; David Miller, John Bowman, Daniel Bowman, Indiana; Christian Long, Sam. Gerber, Illinois; Jacob Brower, Iowa; John Bower, Kansas.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1865.

Rock River, Lee County, Ill.

As usual, a very large number of persons assembled at the place of meeting on Saturday, when the religious services commenced, and they were continued until Monday afternoon. There were represented in the council one hundred and forty churches, by one hundred and eighty-two delegates.



The meeting was organized on Monday morning, after which the delegates from the churches presented themselves and handed in their papers. As the amount of business before the meeting was considerable, it was thought advisable to form sixteen sub-committees. After the devotional exercises on Tuesday morning, these committees commenced reporting, and the General Council, in the fear of God, entered upon its labors. The following questions were before the council and answered as herein stated:

Article 1. Could not this Annual Meeting make some change in the manner of holding our Annual Meetings, which would be advisable and acceptable to the brotherhood?

Answer: This meeting feels the importance of a change, but, not to make any change too hastily, it appoints the following committee to take this matter into consideration to propose the result of their wisdom and labor to the next Annual Meeting, for its acceptance or rejection; D. P. Sayler, Philip Boyle, Benjamin Mumaw, Andrew Derrick, J. H. Umstad, John Wise, H. D. Davy, John Hershey, Jacob Miller, Hiel Hamilton, Christian Long, John Metzger, David Brower, and Frederick Loehr.

Art. 2. Which would be nearest to the gospel, and the order of the church, when a committee is chosen to settle a difficulty, to make known the accusation to the accused and to the church before the committee withdraws, or to withhold it from him and a part of the church till the committee has heard the witnesses and made their decision and report?

Answer: The accusation should be made known to the church and the accused, and the accusers and the accused should be face to face, that the latter may have liberty to answer for himself, according to Acts 25: 16.

Art. 3. The apostle James says, "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church," etc. Now, inasmuch as the apostle says elders, and not ministers, in the first and second degree, would it not be more consistent with the gospel to send for ordained elders in all cases?

Answer: We consider the decisions of the Annual Meeting of 1850 and 1862 upon this subject satisfactory and correct. (The following is taken from the minutes of those years: Who are the proper persons in the church to administer the ordinance recorded in James 5: 14? Considered, the bishops or ordained elders. Article 30, 1850: Is there any second order of persons in the church who may administer the above ordinance in cases of great and pressing necessity, when the proper administrators can not be had in time for the urgency of the case? Considered, in such case brethren in less office, if at least one of them is authorized to



baptize, might serve. Article 31, 1850: Who are the elders spoken of by James, that are to be sent to anoint the sick in the name of the Lord? Answer: The ordained elders, if they can be obtained, if not, the next in office. Article 54, 1862.)

Art. 4. How is it considered when elders in different churches teach that it is not necessary to send for elders to anoint the sick, but that brethren in the first and second degree can do it as well as elders?

Answer: We do not consider it consistent with the gospel for elders so to teach.

Art. 5. Have committees, appointed to investigate difficulties in churches other than the church in which they hold their membership, the power to disown members in the absence of the church council, or without consultation with the elders of the church in which the difficulty exists?

Answer: We consider that they have no such power.

Art. 6. Has any church a right, according to the order of the brethren, to send a letter to the standing committee of the Yearly Meeting, demanding of them that a certain brother should have no right to assist the brethren in selecting committees that may be called for?

Answer: We consider that no church has any right to make such a demand.

Art. 7. Whereas, the brethren at our last Annual Meeting decided that "Civil Government is of divine authority" (minutes of Annual Meeting, Article 23, 1864); and, whereas, all civil governments are, and always have been, sustained by the sword; we therefore wish to know if it is right for brethren to bear arms, when called upon to do so by the authorities, in order to sustain the civil government?

Answer: We consider that we have no right to take up arms.

Art. 8. How is it viewed for a brother or for brethren to write against the ancient order and customs of the church, and have their manuscripts or writings printed, and thus distributed in and out of the church?

Answer: We think it is not right to do so.

Art. 9. Whereas, the brethren have heretofore advised against publishing the proceedings of the Annual Meeting in the "Gospel Visitor," will they still disapprove of publishing them in our papers?



Answer: We think the minutes of our Annual Meeting had better be kept separate from our public papers.

Art. 10. Since the counsel of the brethren, assembled at our Annual Meetings for the last two years, is, that brethren should have nothing to do with politics, and to entirely abstain from voting, how should we deal with such brethren as will not hear said counsel?

Answer: We advise that such brethren be admonished in love, again and again, to be subject to the counsel of the Annual Meeting.

Art. 11. A church needs a meeting-house, and by a unanimous counsel of all present, agrees to build one by taxation, each one paying in proportion to his true valuation; is it then consistent to make a non-compliance with said counsel a test of fellowship?

Answer: We consider that all those who fail to comply with the counsel, would fall into the judgment of the church, but we recommend in such cases that disinterested brethren from some other church or churches be called to the council.

Art. 12. In case a member commits a trespass, and the church views it as such, but the said member can not see it as such, but says, "wherein I have done wrong I want you to forgive me." Now, shall such an acknowledgment be considered sufficient, or shall the offending member be required to acknowledge to the wrong that he has done?

Answer: We consider that the church must judge of the sufficiency of the acknowledgment of an offending member.

Art. 13. Is it right, according to the gospel and our profession, for brethren to buy county bonds, bearing six per cent interest, and shave them twelve and a half per cent?

Answer: We think it most consistent with our profession not to deal in such stock. (The five articles which follow next in order came from a district meeting in Virginia, and were presented to this meeting for confirmation.)

Art. 14. Is it the duty of the church, in all cases, however aggravated, to reclaim an offending member upon an acknowledgment, or should he be expelled, in extreme cases, even though he should make acknowledgments?

Answer: We consider that, in extreme cases, such as mentioned by the apostle in 1 Cor. 5, the offending members should be expelled and put away from the church until they give evidence of true humility and contrition.



Art. 15. Can a brother be held as a member of the church who will, when put into the army, take up arms and aim to shed the blood of his fellow-man?

Answer: He can not.

Art. 16. As some brethren are of the opinion that the communion should be observed more frequently, say three or more times in a year, what is the counsel of this meeting in regard to it?

Answer: We think it should be submitted to the discretion of each arm of the church to have as many as two or three in a year, but we exhort brethren in this, as in all other cases, to guard against extremes.

Art. 17. What is the decision of this meeting in case brethren (especially official brethren) exercise a private influence in the election of members to office in the church? If wrong, what is the extent of the offense, and how can it be remedied?

Answer: We think such brethren should be admonished, and earnestly entreated to desist from such a course; and, if that will not control him, a committee should be appointed to inform him that if his course is persisted in he will fall into the judgment of the church. The committee should be called from another church.

Art. 18. What is the decision of the council in the case of an elder who refuses to fill the duties of his office?

Answer: (As the answer to this question is precisely the same, word for word, with the answer to the last article, we presume this statement and a reference to that answer are sufficient.)

Art. 19. How is it considered if a brother who is drafted hires a substitute to perform military service, and afterward removes into another district—shall the church grant him a certificate of membership?

Answer: Since the law has exempted brethren from military duty, by paying a tax in lieu of service, we consider that brethren do wrong to resort to other means, unless they are ignorant of the provisions of the law.

Art. 20. Is it according to the spirit of the gospel to receive expelled penitent members, as directed by the Annual Meeting of 1840, Article 13, which reads thus: "It was, and is, the mode of the brethren for the members to remain in their places, and the members to be received again, to go from one to another, and thus to be received," etc.

Answer: We think there is no necessity for a change in the manner of receiving fallen members.



Art. 21. Is it according to the order of the brethren, and the spirit of the gospel, for the brethren to order and obey those proclamations made by the President of the United States, and the governors of the states, recommending the observance of certain days, such as Thanksgiving days?

Answer: Yes, if such proclamations do not conflict with the spirit of the gospel.

Art. 22. As the decisions of the Annual Meeting are not obeyed by all the overseers of the church, would it not be better to district the churches, and extend to those the power to return to the standing committee all those who fail to carry out the advice of the Annual Council?

Answer: Yes.

Art. 23. When a member is expelled, according to Matt. 18, and does not ask for a rehearing, or a committee at the time he refuses to hear the church, how long is it thought advisable to allow the right to a rehearing, or is a church in duty bound to grant it at any time?

Answer: We consider it best not to limit the time in which a rehearing may be obtained, but an expelled member, wishing a rehearing, should apply for one as soon as practicable.

Art. 24. How will the brethren, assembled in Annual Council, consider the case where elders and ministers have taken sides with the rebels in this bloody rebellion, and voted for separation; can they be held as divine teachers, or not?

Answer: They can not, according to the gospel.

Art. 25. Is it consistent with the gospel to retain members in the church who have voluntarily aided and abetted in the rebellion by voting for separation, or by otherwise encouraging it?

Answer: No; such should be put away from among us.

Art. 26. Is it right for ministering brethren, or for private members, to speak evil of the rulers of our land in public, and pray that God would open their eyes and change their wicked hearts? And, if it is not right, what is to be done with those who do so?

Answer: We consider it wrong to do so (Acts 23: 5), and that brethren that have done so should make an acknowledgment for it and promise to do so no more.

Art. 27. What portion of God's word furnishes us with au-



thority, either by commandment, precedent, or example, for funeral preaching, and especially after the interment has been done for months and even years?

Answer: We have positive scriptural authority to preach the word at all times and on all occasions when called on. (See 2 Tim. 4: 2.)

Art. 28. Has any brother a right to preach that is not elected by the voice of the church?

Answer: We think not, according to the apostolic practice and teaching. (See Acts 1: 26; 6: 3; 2 Tim. 2: 2.)

Art. 29. Has any brother a right to call on a brother to preach in public, who is not yet elected to preach?

Answer: We think not, for it is contrary to the gospel, and it causes offense and confusion in the church.

Art. 30. If a brother remove from one arm of the church to another, and cannot obtain a certificate of membership from the former church, can the church into which he moved, understanding the difficulty with the former church, be the judge in the matter?

Answer: We think not." The church from which the member moved should give the certificate.

Art. 31. Is it right for any of our ministering brethren to entertain pro-slavery principles, and preach them publicly and privately?

Answer: It is considered not right, according to Luke 6: 31, and if any brother should persist in doing so, he should be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 32. How does this meeting consider that part of 1 Cor. 5, which treats on "avoidance," as practiced by some of our churches?

Referred to the next Annual Meeting.

Art. 33. Will this Annual Meeting reconsider Art. 5, of the minutes of 1864?

Answer: No. The following is the query referred to, with the answer: "Is it in accordance with the gospel for brethren to donate money toward building meeting-houses of other denominations? Finding no gospel upon the subject alluded to in the query, we leave it to every one's conscience to direct in the case."

Art. 34. Does the Annual Council make laws, or give advice only, in cases where it has no direct gospel on the subject?



Answer: It gives advice only.

Art. 35. Would it not be advisable, in case of an evil report against a member, to take the evidence of persons without the church, if considered by the church as persons of truth, to test the matter, if such evidence be carefully handled?

Answer: Yes, for the purpose of testing the truth of the report; but an action or condemnation without an acknowledgment of the accused, or without the evidence of members, would not be proper.

Art. 36. Does this Annual Meeting consider the decisions of sectional councils, which are not brought to the Annual Meeting, the same as those decided by the Annual Meeting; and if they do, why not take minutes of them, so that satisfaction could be returned to their brethren, who were dissatisfied, by epistle or by word of mouth, as the apostles and elders did at Jerusalem, in the first council?

Answer: We consider that all district councils should be careful not to undertake to pass resolutions or decisions concerning the general principles or practices of the whole fraternity, but refer them rather to the Annual Meeting, and confine themselves simply to the settlement of local matters.

Art. 37. Is it a violation of the gospel to feed the people on communion occasions?

Answer: We think it is not.

Art. 38. A request to reconsider Art. 23, of 1864.

Answer: We consider the answer sufficient as it is. The following is the query referred to, with the answer: "Does this Annual Meeting consider civil government of divine authority, or a mere association for mutual well being?"

Answer: "We consider that it is of divine authority, from the testimony of the Apostle Paul. (See Rom. 13: 1-8.)"

Art. 39. A request to reconsider Art. 16, of the minutes of 1864.

Answer: We judge it best to make no change at present in relation to the question alluded to. The following is the query referred to, with the answer: "Is it right, and according to the gospel, for a brother to invest money in government bonds? Answer: We consider it not wrong to do so."

Art. 40. Is it contrary to the gospel to raise funds by taxation?

Answer: It is not contrary to the gospel to do so.



Art. 41. What is the order of the church in ordaining a minister by laying on of hands?

Answer: It is as follows: 1. A request is deemed necessary to be made by the church, and approved by the elders present. 2. Then the elders take the sense of each member, one by one, to know whether they are satisfied with ordaining the brother oldest in office. And if they agree, and no serious objection is made, the ordination is proceeded with, which is done by laying on of hands, with prayer, and then the members receive the brother as at the first installation.

Art. 42. As we profess to be a plain people, is it right for brethren to use gilt-edged hymn-books and Bibles, when plain ones are just as good, and more becoming our profession; and should the brethren be allowed to make and sell such?

Answer: We advise the brethren to be careful in such matters.

Art. 43. A church being in council assembled, agree pretty much unanimously no more to countenance voting at political elections, according to counsel of the Annual Meeting; is it consistent, then, to make a violation of the counsel of said meeting a test of fellowship, if there is no disposition on the part of those who violate said counsel to make an acknowledgment for it? We want a more definite answer than heretofore given.

Answer: Such brethren should be admonished again and again, and if they will not adhere to the counsel of the church, then they should be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 44. When a church makes a choice for an officer or for officers, and the bishop and ministers in the church in which the election is to be held, vote, when is the proper time for them to vote, at the beginning or at the close of the election?

Answer: We think they should, by all means, vote at the beginning, if they vote at all, and that they should be careful to observe the well-established rules of the brethren relative to such occasions, especially in calling elders from adjoining churches to be present at such times.

Art. 45. What is the difference (if there is any difference) for brethren to have their property insured, or to have their lives insured, as it appears from Art. 3, of the minutes of 1864, that there is quite a difference?

Answer: We think there is quite a difference, since we do



not think it right to put a money value upon human life, while we may on property.

Art. 46. Inasmuch as some districts have taken council to entirely abstain from voting at political elections, what does the Annual Meeting say to those housekeepers and districts that still continue to vote, and cause hard feelings by doing so?

Answer: We admonish such housekeepers and districts to submit to the decisions of the Annual Meeting of 1864, query 1; and if they refuse to do so, they will be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 47. How are the churches to hold and proceed with those members, who, in heart and soul, have been in sympathy with the rebellion, denouncing the government, and speaking evil of our rulers, especially of President Lincoln? As many members are unwilling to commune with such, a scriptural answer is required.

Answer: We consider such brethren as transgressors of the Word, and admonish them to make satisfactory acknowledgment to the church; and if they refuse to do so, they should be dealt with according to the gospel. (See Acts 23: 5; Rom. 13; 2 Peter 2: 10; Titus 3: 1.)

Art. 48. Is it considered according to the gospel, and according to the order of the brethren, for absent members to send their votes to an election in the church by the hands of other members?

Answer: It is not.

Art. 49. Inasmuch as there is still a difference of opinion relative to brethren having lightning-rods on their buildings, we wish a decisive answer; and not only a reference to the minutes of 1851 and 1804, as we have referred to them, but still get into difficulty. Likewise the same satisfaction in regard to having our property insured is desired.

Answer: We consider it would not be advisable to encourage brethren to do so, but think we should bear with brethren who have already done so.

Art. 50. If a bishop be accused with a fault in ruling or keeping house, and the church calls a committee of elders and delivers unto them the charges, and the committee, upon deliberation, suspends him, or relieves him of his office, without informing him (the accused) of the charges against him, and giving him no privilege of answering to the charges, and of defending himself,



are the proceedings of the church and committee according to order and justice?

Answer: No.

Art. 51. As many brethren seem to so far disregard the advice of the Annual Council as to send to the "Gospel Visitor" and "Christian Companion" articles exposing, through their editors, the counsel of the old brethren, will this meeting adopt means to put a stop to these things?

Answer: We consider it wrong to do so, and think we should not disregard the counsel and decisions of the Annual Meeting; and such articles as oppose the order of the brethren should not be published, and if the brethren still persist in doing so, they should be dealt with as offenders.

Art. 52. Where is the gospel, either in command, precept, or example, that justifies the idea that there is a first, a second, and a third degree in the ministry?

Answer: We have plain scripture to teach a grade of officers in the church. (See Eph. 4: 11); "He gave some, apostles; some, prophets; some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers."

Art. 53. If there is a council-meeting appointed in one arm of the church, has the elder of that district a right to invite another elder of another arm or district to come and assist him in his church, or must the elder of the church, in all such cases, first ask the congregation before he invites another elder to help him?

Answer: We think it is advisable for the elder to consult the church, or at least his co-laborers.

Art. 54. Inasmuch as there is a difference of opinion and some aggrievance, in regard to bells on church houses, we wish the Annual Meeting to decide the matter.

Answer: Decided not to have them.

Art. 55. Can the brethren, assembled in our annual district church meetings, pass decisions contrary to the decisions of our Annual Conference, and compel the brethren to practice the same?

No.

Art. 56. Inasmuch as there is a difference in the brotherhood in holding an inquest where there is application made for baptism, and for letters of recommendation, some doing it before the whole congregation, and others doing it before the church only.



It is desired that in this all the churches practice alike, as members are moving from one state to another, and such difference causes hard feelings and trouble.

Answer: We consider such inquest should be held before the church only.

Art. 57. Inasmuch as the brethren in last Yearly Meeting advised brethren to abstain entirely from voting, and when one church receives the minutes, they are read to the church, and the members are admonished not to go to the election, and the elder takes the counsel of the church, and there is a united voice not to go, but there are a few brethren who were not present at the council-meeting, and the decision of the church is sent to them, and they are advised not to go to the election; and then some of the brethren go to the election, when the visiting brethren are sent the second time to notify them not to go, but they go again, after which they are requested to come to the council-meeting, but do not come. The church is then admonished to bear with them, and they are admonished again not to go. If, after all this, they still will go, what is to be done with such brethren?

Answer: They should be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Whereas, it has been plainly proved to the brethren assembled at this Annual Meeting, that William C. Thurman did, on different occasions, say things publicly in his preaching against the practice of the brethren, and has done the same in his writings, and by the course he has pursued he has given offense to the brethren; it is, therefore, the decision of this meeting that we can not recognize him as a minister of the gospel among us until he gives satisfaction to the church.

Requests for committees: 1. The following brethren constitute the committee to the Beaver Dam Church, Maryland: H. D. Davy, J. P. Ebersole, John Wise, and Jos. R. Hanawalt. 2. For Kansas: Christian Long and J. Metzger. 3. For Jasper County, Iowa: Christian Long, Jacob Berkey, John Metzger, and J. P. Ebersole. 4. For Berlin, Somerset County, Pennsylvania: H. D. Davy, J. P. Ebersole, and John Wise. 5. For the Wabash Church, Indiana: Jacob Miller, of Portage, Daniel B. Sturgis, Hiel Hamilton, and John Bowman. 6. For Bourbon, Indiana: Abraham Whitmer, Christian Wenger, David Ruppel, and John Nisely. 7. For Salamon Church, Indiana: H. D. Davy, J. P. Ebersole, Jacob Miller, of Portage, and John Metzger.

Contributions for the brethren in Virginia and Tennessee:



Bro. Wrightsman, from Tennessee, and Bro. Mumaw, from Virginia, stated to the meeting that the brethren in those states need assistance, and that they must suffer unless they get assistance; whereupon the meeting appointed D. P. Saylor as a receiver to receive contributions for the relief of said brethren. The meeting likewise directed him to appropriate the funds now in his hands, collected for the Oregon mission, to the same purpose. Bro. Saylor's postoffice is Double Pipe Creek, Carroll County, Maryland. If money is sent by express to him it should be sent to him in care of the agent of the express company, Frederick City, Maryland.

Requests for the Annual Meeting: The Pipe Creek Church, Maryland, renews its request for the Annual Meeting for 1867.

The meeting closed on Wednesday afternoon with devotional exercises.

Standing committee, etc.: D. P. Saylor, Maryland; Joseph Arnold, Virginia; Joseph R. Hanawalt and John Wise, Pennsylvania; Peter Nead and H. D. Davy, Ohio; Jacob Miller and Hiel Hamilton, Indiana; Isham Gibsom and John Metzger, Illinois; Frederick P. Loehr, Michigan; David Brower, Iowa; John Bower, Kansas.

James Quinter, Clerk.

H. D. Davy, Moderator.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1866.

Antietam Church, Franklin County, Pa.

The meeting was organized on Monday morning, after which the delegates from the churches reported themselves, and it was ascertained that one hundred and sixty-five churches were represented by two hundred delegates. The delegates were divided into fifteen sub-committees, and to these the business was committed, that they might report to the General Council. The General Council commenced business on Tuesday morning, after devotional exercises. The deferred business of last Annual Meeting being the first business in order before the council, the committee appointed at that meeting to devise some plan for holding our Annual Meetings, which will be more satisfactory to the brotherhood, was called upon for its report and submitted the following:

### Introductory Remarks.

The authority for holding general conference meetings is founded on the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, and



a strict compliance with the example therein is advisable. By reference to said Scripture, we learn that the question in dispute, and upon which the disciples differed, was not referred to a General Council until all efforts had failed to settle it in the church in which it originated. The following language occurs in the chapter above referred to: "When, therefore, Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain others of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about the question." Here seems to be authority to send questions upon which the brethren differ in their judgments to a General Council, and that the bishops ought to go, and also to have certain others with them. It is further said: "And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy unto all the brethren." Here we see that those who were sent were brought on their way by the church. So should we do; that is, help such to go that we send. It is said further that "the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter." Hence we see that the Council meeting should be for conference only.

#### **The Annual Meeting.**

We recommend that the Annual Council be formed by the delegates sent by the district meetings, and by all the ordained elders present; that the meeting be held at the place designated by the council the preceding year, to commence on the first Tuesday after Whit Sunday, the previous Lord's-day (Whit Sunday) to be spent as it has hitherto been by the brethren in worship, at such places in the vicinity in which the meeting is to be held as shall be desired, and as may be judged most profitable; that there be no public meeting for worship where the council-meeting is held, though the meeting should be opened with devotional exercises, and the reading of the fifteenth chapter of Acts, and likewise closed with devotional exercises; that the meeting still be held alternately, in the east and in the west.

#### **The District-Meetings.**

We recommend that each state form itself into convenient district-meetings. These meetings shall be formed by one or two representatives from each organized church, and we recommend that each church be represented in the district meeting, either by representatives or by letter. We think it best to hold those meetings in simplicity, and as much like the common council-meetings



are held, as possible. A record of the district-meetings may be kept, but not published. They should endeavor to settle all questions of a local character. But those of a general character, or those that concern the brotherhood in general, should be taken to the Annual Meeting. And all questions that can not be settled at the district-meetings should be taken to the Annual Meeting. In taking questions from the district to the Annual Meetings, they should be correctly and carefully formed; and all queries from district-meetings should be accompanied with an answer. But in case those meetings cannot agree upon any questions, then they shall be referred to the standing committee, and this shall form answers to the questions before they be read before the General Council. And it is considered very desirable, and indeed necessary, that in all cases in answering questions, both in district and Annual Meetings, that some Scripture authority or reason be given for the decision, though it should be done as briefly as possible.

No business can come before district meetings until it has passed through the church in which it originated. It is understood that any member falling under the counsel of the church, and being dissatisfied with the decision, may appeal to the Annual Meeting by presenting a petition, signed by a number of the members of the church. Nothing in this arrangement shall be so construed as to prevent any member from presenting himself before the standing committee of the Annual Meeting, to offer any thing that can not be brought before it in the manner prescribed, and the committee shall hear his case and dispose of it according to its judgment.

The church holding the meeting shall make arrangements to receive and entertain all the brethren and sisters privately. There shall be no boarding-tent put up at the place of meeting to entertain and feed a mixed multitude, as heretofore.

All churches shall have the privilege to call on the General Council-meeting for committees to investigate grievances, and it shall be its duty to appoint such committees as heretofore.

### **The Organization of the Annual Meeting.**

The bishop and elders of the church holding the Annual Meeting shall select, from among the bishops present, the standing committee. Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, shall each be entitled to three, if present, and two, if present, from each of the remaining states in which churches are



established, and whenever said states shall contain ten bishops each, they also shall be entitled to three. The standing committee shall choose its own officers, and these shall be a moderator, two clerks, and a door-keeper. It shall be the duty of the moderator to keep order among the members of the committee, and also in the public meeting. He shall not permit two brethren to speak at the same time, and he shall decide who is entitled to the floor. He shall also keep the speakers to the question, and declare the query passed, after general consent, by silence. It shall be the duty of the first clerk to keep a faithful record of all the queries and answers, and prepare them for publication. It shall be the duty of the second clerk to read distinctly all papers as often as requested. It shall be the duty of the door-keeper to take charge of the room in which the committee meet for business, and he shall allow no intrusion in time of session.

As soon as the standing committee has been named they shall retire to a private room for organization and the reception of the queries presented by the delegates from the district meetings (or churches), after which all proper queries shall be read to the General Council-meeting for adoption or amendment, and sub-committees be dispensed with.

The proceedings of the Annual Meetings shall be published, and it is earnestly recommended that all the overseers of churches, whether ordained or not, have them faithfully read and observed in their respective charges. And if it be represented to the Annual Meeting that this recommendation is disregarded, it shall be the duty of the standing committee to appoint faithful brethren, whose duty it shall be to visit said churches, and see that the minutes are properly read and observed, and to set in order things that are lacking. The above is unanimously recommended to the Annual Meeting by the committee.

Signed by the committee: D. P. Saylor, Henry Koontz, of Maryland; Benjamin Moomaw, of Virginia; David Derick, of Tennessee; John H. Umstad, John Wise, of Pennsylvania; H. D. Davy, James Quinter, John Hershey, of Ohio; Jacob Miller, Hiel Hamilton, of Indiana; Christian Long, John Bowman, of Illinois; David Brown, of Iowa.

Three members of the committee not being present, John Bowman, Henry Koontz, and James Quinter, were appointed to fill their places.

This report being read before the General Council, was adopted by the following resolution:



RESOLVED, That we try the committee's report for at least a sufficient length of time to give it a fair trial.

Article 1. A number of questions being presented upon the subject of voting, and some asking for a repeal of former minutes, the following resolution, as an answer to those questions, was adopted:

RESOLVED, That we think it most expedient not to repeal any minutes touching voting; that this Annual Meeting recommends to the members of the church to refrain from voting, fearing that by voting we may compromise our non-resistant principles; but we recommend forbearance toward those who vote, not making voting a test of fellowship, hoping that in time they will see with the body of the brethren upon this subject.

Art. 2. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has frequently decided against the brethren voting, is it not inconsistent, and even injurious to the brotherhood, for brethren to write, and editors to publish, any thing in opposition to those decisions?

Answer: We think that our brethren, who write and print articles, should be very careful not to promote strife and divisions in the church, but peace, love, union, and holiness.

Art. 3. Is it according to the gospel to hold church meetings in secrecy, as we are commanded to take Christ for our example; and he said: "In secret have I said nothing?" John 18: 20.

Answer: It is according to the gospel, inasmuch as the Savior only says: "In secret have I said nothing." Consequently this does not prohibit us from transacting church business in secrecy, his language not applying to church meetings. In holding church meetings secretly, we act according to Matt. 18, where the Savior says: "Tell it unto the church."

Art. 4. If an elder rejects the decisions or counsel of a committee sent by the Annual Meeting, the majority of the church sustaining him, what course should be pursued to bring him to submit?

Answer: We consider it wrong for an elder, with a part of the church, to reject the decision of a committee sent by the Annual Meeting; but in such a case the minority should have the privilege to apply for the same, or another committee.

Art. 5. If a member receives a certificate of membership, is he still considered a member of that arm of the church in which he received the certificate, until he presents it in another arm? And, if so, how long can a member hold a certificate, without presenting it, before he loses his membership entirely?



Answer: We think he is, until he had sufficient time to hand in his letter, and has willingly neglected to do so. (See Paul to Philemon.)

Art. 6. Does this Annual Meeting judge it expedient to reconsider Art. 13, of the minutes of 1840, and Art. 20, of the minutes of 1865?

Answer: We think it not expedient to do so.

Art. 7. Is it according to the order of the gospel for brethren, being mourners, to keep their hats on in time of funeral services, at prayer, and preaching, etc.? And should brethren dress their dead after the fashion of the world?

Answer: We think not; for the apostle says: "It is a shame for a man to pray or prophesy having his head covered" (1 Cor. 2.); and we think a white shroud becomes our dead the best.

Art. 8. A man was baptized by the brethren, but he afterward left the church, with the plea that he never believed there was a God, and that he joined the church for worldly gain; but afterward he wishes to join the church, and to be baptized, and says he now believes in Christ, and lives as becomes a Christian. Can he be received without being re-baptized?

It was considered best to defer this question to the next Annual Meeting.

Art. 9. A member is charged with a crime, but before the case was investigated he removes to a distant country. Is it in accordance with the gospel for the church from which he moved to expel that member without first investigating the case, either when he is present, or by writing?

Answer: We think that churches should be very careful not to expel members without giving them an opportunity of defending themselves; and, as a general rule, we consider it improper to do so; but there may be cases in which the church is justified in expelling members in their absence.

Art. 10. Would it be profitable and apostolic to number the brethren and sisters, and report the numerical strength of the brotherhood at the next Annual Meeting?

Answer: We consider it not apostolic, inasmuch as the apostles never gave the exact number of believers. Acts 2: 4-47; 4: 4.

Art. 11. There being a considerable number of persons in Tennessee, belonging to a body of professing Christians, known



as the J. A. Bowman Church, he having been at one time in fellowship with the brethren. This body expressed a wish to our brethren in Tennessee to become united to the brethren, and a committee of brethren in Tennessee was appointed to confer with the J. A. Bowman Church relative to a union; but the brethren in Tennessee preferred to submit the case to the Annual Meeting, and it appointed the following brethren as a committee to visit the J. A. Bowman Church to confer with it, and to receive it into fellowship with us, if judged proper to do so: J. P. Ebersole and H. D. Davy, of Ohio; John Metzger and C. Long, of Illinois; Jacob Miller and J. Bowman, of Indiana; J. Wise and D. M. Holsinger, of Pennsylvania; D. P. Sayler and H. Koontz, of Maryland; Daniel Thomas and Solomon Garver, of Virginia.

Art. 12. Can the brethren in Missouri take the oath of loyalty, as set forth in the new constitution of that state, to get the privilege to preach the gospel?

Answer: They can not take that oath, if it conflicts with the principles of the gospel, as the brethren receive those principles, but we think that a proper construction of the constitution will not require any compromise of our principles. And we recommend to our brethren in Missouri to ascertain from the proper officers the true import of the oath, to see whether it does conflict with our Christian principles.

Art. 13. As it is the practice in some congregations to have the supper on the table at feet-washing, while in others they have it not on, can not this Annual Meeting bring about a uniformity upon this subject?

Answer: Though we desire uniformity, yet we would refer the brethren, at present, to Art. 21, of the Annual Meeting of 1863.

Art. 14. How is it considered if a minister violates his marriage contract, by committing adultery secretly, and continues the transgression for over one year, and in the meantime seeks and obtains the ordained elder's place, discharges all the holy functions of that office, preaching, baptizing, anointing the sick, solemnizing marriages, and breaking bread; can he ever be received again? And, if so, how long after having been expelled?

Answer: We think he can, as a private member, but not until the church in which he lives is fully satisfied that his conduct throughout proves that he has indeed repented. 2 Cor. 2: 6-8.

Art. 15. Is it right for a brother to lease a piece of ground to an agricultural society, for ten years, for the purpose of hold-



ing county fairs on? If not, what shall be done with such a brother?

Answer: We consider it not right; and we think he should give satisfaction to the church; and should he refuse to do so, let him be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 16. What shall be done in case a husband will not live with his wife, and she obtains a divorce, and marries another, and after living with him for several years, she desires admission into the church, and is received; but some object to her reception, saying they can not fellowship her; can she be retained as a member? And, if so, what shall be done with those who refuse to fellowship her?

Answer: We think, under existing circumstances, she can not be retained as a member. (See Minutes of 1850, Art. 12.)

Art. 17. Is it in accordance with the gospel for ministering brethren, when traveling, to keep and have published a record of their travels, telling how many meetings they attended, how many were converted, who took them from place to place, with whom they staid over night, besides many little incidents seen by the way, etc?

Answer: We have no gospel command to do so, but if it is done it should be to edification, and a too minute detail of particulars should be avoided, deeming that useless.

Art. 18. Should not brethren, according to the gospel, be prohibited from selling and circulating books, circulars, etc., at our Annual Meetings—hymn-books and Bibles excepted?

Answer: We think the gospel does not prohibit us from selling books comporting with the gospel, and approved by the brethren. But we consider it not consistent to do so on the Sabbath-day.

Art. 19. A request to reconsider answer to Art. 40, 1865.

It was reconsidered, but postponed.

Art. 20. Inasmuch as the subject of lightning-rods has been before the Annual Council, and brethren have only been advised to bear with one another, which we consider is no decision at all; for, if right, why not recommend it to all, and, if wrong, why tolerate it at all?

Answer: As we have no command to erect or forbid lightning-rods, we would not advise brethren to put up such rods, but the brethren should bear with one another in love in such matters. (Minutes of 1851, Art. 7, and of 1856, Art. 25.)



Art. 21. Inasmuch as the freedmen of the south are in a starving condition, and also destitute of education and Christianity, would not this district council-meeting (southern district of Indiana) think it advisable to adopt some plan for their relief, and present it to our next Annual Conference for their deliberation?

Whereupon it was resolved that this meeting make arrangements to raise funds, and appoint two brethren to go into the Southern States as soon as the nature of the case will admit of it, and distribute those funds among the needy, irrespective of color, and also preach the gospel whenever opportunity may present itself. (Some further particulars relative to the manner of raising the funds were given, but are here omitted for want of room.) It was further concluded to submit the above to the Annual Meeting, and if not approved of, it was not to be carried out. The following is the action of the Annual Meeting upon the above: We heartily approve of the above, and bid our brethren God speed, and recommend to our brotherhood to imitate the worthy example of our dear brethren in southern Indiana.

Art. 22. Whose duty is it to perform the annual church visit? the visiting brethren's duty alone, or is it also a duty enjoined upon the speakers to help to perform it?

Answer: We consider it is the deacon's duty to perform the yearly visit, by order of the church, as it belongs to their commission; yet, if speakers see proper to assist them, they can do so.

Art. 23. Inasmuch as there is a difference of opinion among the brethren in reference to what constitutes a reasonable excuse for going upon stands or pulpits in meeting-houses of other denominations, will the brethren in Annual Council give a more definite answer upon this subject?

Answer: We recommend the brethren to bear with one another, allowing every brother to keep his conscience clear, as we have no "thus saith the Lord" for it.

Art. 24. Is it allowed for brethren to travel through the country selling patent rights, and buying stock for speculators, being looked at as sharp traders? If not approved of, what shall be done in such cases?

Answer: This meeting does not approve of brethren doing so, and if it is done, we recommend the churches having the care of such who do it, to attend to it.

Art. 25. What do the brethren call fallen members, those that are in avoidance only, or all of them that are put out of the church?

Answer: We think that all that are put out of the church by avoidance, or according to Matt. 18, are so called.



Art. 26. What shall the church do with a ministering brother that has promised three times to the church to conform to the order of the church in point of dress and apparel, and the time set for him to do so, but the time expires, and he does not make his promise good, and also influences members against conforming to the rules laid down in the gospel relative to non-conformity to the fashion of the world?

Answer: We advise the church having brethren who fail to comply with their promises, as above stated, to deal with them according to Matt. 18.

Art. 27. Inasmuch as pride and an inclination to follow the fashions of the world are still increasing among us, in wearing fine apparel, frock and sack coats, dusters, shawls, etc., with the hair parted off to one side, or shingled and roached, moustaches, etc.; the sisters also wearing fine apparel, going without caps, wearing hoops, hats, vails, overcoats, jewelry, etc.; and, as admonition, in some cases, has not effected any thing, can not this Yearly Meeting propose some plan by which this growing evil may be arrested?

Answer: We think members of the church, conforming to the fashions of the world as above stated, should be admonished again and again, and if they will not hear the church, the Savior has given directions in Matt. 18 how to deal with them.

Art. 28. Should not colored members be held equal with white members in church privileges?

Answer: We refer to minutes of 1835, Art. 1; and 1845, Art. 2; and 1849, Art. 31.

Art. 29. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has decided that bells on meeting-houses, giving offense, is wrong, does this Annual Meeting say that bells on meeting-houses in towns or cities (though of great advantage) should be taken down, or should they be regarded as lightning-rods, dinner bells, and like things, giving like offenses? and if not so regarded, will this Annual Meeting give gospel grounds for not admitting church bells on meeting-houses in towns or cities?

Answer: We think it best for brethren to be subject to the decision of the Annual Meeting, and if reconciliation can not be made, it would be best to take them down, according to Romans 14: 15-21, and avoid giving offense.

Art. 30. A young man enlists in the services of the government of the United States, and after being in camp a month, deserts and returns home secretly, and, with the consent of his



parents, changes his name to his mother's maiden name, retaining his given name as a middle name. He then goes into another part of the state and gets married, and becomes a member of the church under his assumed name. Some six or eight months afterward the church gets to hear of this, and when he is asked concerning it, he frankly admits that it was so, and was sorry that it so happened. What is now the duty of the church in this case?

Answer: Inasmuch as said brother entered into the marriage contract under a fictitious name, and also in violation of Romans 13: 1, and has also deceived the church, the duty of said church would be to make it his duty to have the marriage legalized, and make good satisfaction for said deception.

Art. 31. Does this meeting approve of a brother who is a physician to forward his reputation by stating in his bills and circulars that he is a member of the German Baptist church?

Answer: We do not approve of it.

Art. 32. Is it agreeable with the gospel for brethren to put a reward on their horses or other property when stolen, and try to recover the same?

Answer: Is it not according to Luke 6: 30.

Art. 33. Will the Annual Meeting inform what course to pursue in the following case: A member is put in avoidance, and an elder from another state, knowing it, visits, salutes with the kiss, and eats with the avoided person; and when he is told that in doing so he has grieved the brethren, he threatens the church or district.

Answer: We consider that the church aggrieved should select a committee of three ordained elders, who shall notify the offending elder of the time and place of meeting, and then investigate the case, and dispose of it according to their judgment. And we decide that an elder has no right to disrespect the action of another church in this manner. If a church should do wrong, it should be proceeded against in the regular gospel manner.

Art. 34. Is it considered conforming to the world for ministering brethren, or others, to have musical instruments, such as melodeons, pianos, etc., in their houses, and for their children, who are members of the church, to spend their precious time in playing on such instruments?

Answer: Considered, that it is tending too much in that direction, the world being largely engaged in it, and we have no example in the New Testament that it was ever indulged in by



Christians. Yet, if strictly confined to sacred music, we can not positively prohibit it, but advise all the beloved members to deny themselves of this indulgence, believing that it is attended with dangerous consequences.

Art. 35. Is a single brother eligible to the office of bishop or deacon? And does Paul mean, when he says to Timothy, "Let the deacon be the husband of one wife," that he must be a married man, or does he mean that he shall have but one wife at a time? 1 Tim. 3: 12.

Answer: We consider that a single brother can hold the office of a bishop or deacon, if duly qualified in other respects, and that married brethren can hold either office, being the husband of one wife at a time.

Art. 36. What is the proper course for members to pursue when they hear a slanderous report against a member of the church, or even persons of the world?

Answer: In all cases we should hear reports with great allowance, and when it is confirmed against a member, it should be brought before the church through the official body. As to persons of the world, we should, by no means, circulate slanderous reports of them, it being, in all cases, calculated to engender strife and confusion.

Art. 37. Inasmuch as the subject of avoidance, at our last Annual Meeting, was laid over for a more mature consideration at this Annual Meeting, we, the brethren assembled at an annual district council-meeting, petition this conference to make no change, but let the avoidance be enforced in certain cases.

Considered, the majority of us are not willing to make any change.

Art. 38. Can a man be received into the church, and hold his office as assessor?

We think he can not consistently with the gospel. John 18: 36; Matt. 6: 24.

Art. 39. Is it allowed for brethren, and especially preachers or deacons, to travel through the country, trafficking in fruit-trees, and, in their anxiety to sell, use great efforts to sell at extravagant prices, making it quite a speculative business to themselves and to their employers?

Answer: We consider it wrong, according to Matt. 7: 12, and brethren who deal in trees should deal honestly, as they should in all their dealings.



Art. 40. How is it considered if a neighboring church still holds persons as members who joined a secret society, without calling them to answer for their conduct, the elders knowing such to be the case? Shall we go to their communion, or invite them to ours?

Considered not according to 2 Cor. 6: 14.

Art. 41. Is it according to the gospel for members, or any body of members, to pay a stated salary to our ministering brethren, for the support of their families, that they may give themselves wholly to their ministerial labors?

Answer: Not wrong to support the ministry, where it is needed. 1 Tim. 5: 18; Luke 10: 7. But we do not approve of paying a stated salary.

Art. 42. How is it considered by the brethren in Annual Council, for sisters, who are in needy circumstances, to avail themselves of the benefit of an act, passed by the legislature of Pennsylvania, granting a gratuity and pension to the soldiers of the war of 1812, or to their widows?

Considered right for them to receive it.

Art. 43. Would it not be more consistent with the teachings of the gospel, in receiving disowned members, for the members of the church to go to the disowned members, and receive them, than for the disowned members to go around to the members of the church, and be received by them in that way?

Answer: Inasmuch as we find that the practice laid down in the minutes, referred to above, has not been a general one hitherto, and as it seems a union of sentiment can not be effected at this meeting, we would feel to leave the matter optional with the churches for the present.

Art. 44. This question refers to the case of the church receiving a class of persons separated from their former partners in the marriage contract, and who have married again.

It was concluded to postpone this question to the next Annual Meeting.

Art. 45. We ask this Annual Meeting to reconsider Art. 6, of 1864, and, if not changed, to give a more scriptural reason why brethren should not serve as jurors.

Answer: We advise our brethren not to serve as jurors when they can avoid it.

Art. 46. Resolved, that Art. 47, of the minutes of 1865, be



altered to read, "The President of the United States," instead of "President Lincoln."

Art. 47. The following resolution was proposed to the Annual Meeting, by a district meeting, with a request that it be adopted:

**Resolved, by this Annual Meeting,** That the churches throughout the brotherhood enforce plainness of dress, and a plain manner of wearing the hair and beard, upon the preachers and officers of the churches. By plainness of dress, we mean the common order of giving shape to dress, as practiced by the old brethren and sisters generally, and by plainness of hair we mean the hair parted on the top of the head, or all combed back in a plain manner, or combed straight down all around the head, and not having the hair and beard trimmed according to the custom of the world.

Considered, that this Annual Meeting unanimously adopt this resolution, according to Rom. 12: 2; 1 Peter 1: 14; 1 John 2: 15, 16; and that all preachers and officers that follow the fashions of the world in the foregoing particulars, violate the order of the gospel by doing so, and render themselves liable to be brought under the counsel of the church.

Art. 48. Requests for committees: 1. For a committee to visit the White Oak Church, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The following brethren are on this committee: Joseph Hanawalt, Moses Miller, Isaac Meyers, Daniel Keller, and Andrew Miller. 2. For a committee to visit the Swatara Church, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. David Gerlach, Moses Miller, Andrew Miller, and Daniel Keller. 3. For a committee to visit the Antietam Church, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. H. D. Davy, John P. Ebersole, John Wise, John M. Holsinger, and John G. Glock.

In response to a petition from the brethren in Virginia, for pecuniary help for Bro. Peter Crumpacker, an elder in the church, who lost three thousand dollars in getting his brethren out of prison, and by being robbed by the rebels, this Annual Meeting recommends to all the churches in the north to assist liberally this worthy brother to bear his loss which he, through love to his brethren, sustains. And we appoint Bro. Benjamin Moomaw the receiver, to receive the funds collected. His express office is Bonsacks, Roanoke County, Virginia, and his post-office is the same.

Bro. William C. Thurman appearing at the meeting, and giving satisfaction to the brethren, was restored to his office as a minister. The following was submitted to him, and he accepted



it by signing it: "He shall consent to give and take counsel, and to teach and obey the gospel, omitting to mention, in preaching on the doctrine of feet-washing among the brethren, and everywhere else, that the one who washes should wipe. His course shall be referred to the Annual Council, if any objections whatever are urged against him. He shall go to Virginia, where he was chosen to the ministry, and be installed in his office, according to the order of the church, and be subject to the church.

"W. C. Thurman."

It was considered advisable that the several states make provision to bear the expenses of the committee appointed to go to Tennessee. Each state will provide for the brethren who go from it.

There was a request made by the district meeting of northern Indiana, for the Annual Meeting of 1868.

The request from the Pipe Creek Church, for the meeting in 1867, was renewed; and the next Annual Meeting will be, the Lord willing, with the Pipe Creek Church, Carroll County, Maryland. Brethren going there are recommended to go to Baltimore City, then take the Western Maryland Railroad for Linwood Station, it being one mile and a half from the place of meeting. Brethren having occasion to write for information, will address Philip Boyle, New Windsor, Maryland, or David Miller, Frizzleburg, Maryland.

Standing Committee: Daniel Keller, John Wise, of Pennsylvania; H. D. Davy, J. P. Ebersole, of Ohio; Christian Keefer, Henry Koontz, of Maryland; John Wine, Daniel Thomas, of Virginia; Jacob Miller, J. Knisely, of Indiana; C. Long, S. Garber, of Illinois; D. Derrich, of Tennessee.

H. D. Davy, Moderator.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1867.

### Pipe Creek, Md.

After the devotional exercises on Tuesday morning, the standing committee was appointed, and the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles was read.

The following brethren were named as the committee: Joseph Riser, H. D. Davy, and James Quinter, of Ohio; David Miller, Jacob Metzger, and Jesse Myers, of Indiana; Christian Long and John Fitz, of Illinois; Peter Long, Andrew Miller, and John Hol-



singer, of Pennsylvania; Peter Crumpacker, Daniel Thomas, and John Wine, of Virginia; David Rittenhouse and John Murray, of Iowa; F. P. Loehr, of Michigan; Henry Koontz, Isaac Pfoutz and D. P. Sayler, of Maryland.

The meeting was then organized by appointing H. D. Davy, moderator, J. Quinter, first clerk, D. P. Sayler, second clerk, and John Weybright, door-keeper.

After the organization the following delegates reported themselves to the standing committee: 1. Southern district of Ohio, Joseph Riser, Abraham Flory. 2. Northwestern district of Ohio, J. P. Ebersole, Joseph Kauffman. 3. Eastern district of Ohio, H. D. Davy, Jacob Garver. 4. Southern district of Indiana, Hiel Hamilton. 5. Middle district of Indiana, Jacob Metzger, Jesse Myers. 6. Northern district of Indiana, D. Miller, F. P. Loehr. 7. Southern district of Illinois, I. Gibson, J. Fitz. 8. Northern district of Illinois, C. Long, J. W. Price. 9. Eastern district of Pennsylvania, D. Gerlach, William Hertzler. 10. Middle district of Pennsylvania, D. M. Holsinger, D. Bosserman. 11. Western district of Pennsylvania, John Wise, Ephraim Cober. 12. First district of Virginia, Abraham Neff, P. Nininger, B. F. Moomaw. 13. Second district of Virginia, J. Wine, D. Thomas. 14. Third district of Virginia, M. Cosner. 15. District of Iowa, David Rittenhouse, John Murray. 16. District of western Maryland, David Long, E. Slifer. 17. District of eastern Maryland, Philip Boyle, D. P. Sayler. 18. District of Tennessee, P. Wrightsman, J. B. Pence.

Article 1. The district of southern Ohio respectfully requests the Annual Meeting to give some more definite direction than we now have for dealing with a church that is altogether out of the order of the gospel.

Answer: We think that the direction for meeting such cases as alluded to above, is contained in the minutes of last Annual Meeting, and if that direction is understood and carried out, nothing further is necessary.

Art. 2. Would it not be well to have the same questions asked throughout the brotherhood, on our annual visits?

Answer: We think it would, and the following form of questions is given: 1. Are you still in the faith of the gospel, as you declared in your baptism? 2. Are you, as far as you know, in peace and union with the church? 3. Will you still labor with the brethren for an increase of holiness, both in yourself and others? 4. Liberty should be given to members to bring any thing they may desire to, and that they may think the good of the church requires, before the visiting brethren.



Art. 3. What is the order of the brethren when members have become entirely dependent upon the church? Have they the privilege of moving from one branch of the church to another without the consent of the church into which they propose to move?

Answer: The church into which such members propose to move should first be counseled before they move, and if this is not complied with, the charges should be paid by the church from which they moved.

Art. 4. A request to change the word enforce, in Art. 47 of 1866, to advise.

Answer: We consider it not best to change the word in the connection in which it stands, as it applies to the officers of the church, for whom it was designed.

Art. 5. Is it according to the gospel for brethren to act as administrators or executors, in the capacity that the law requires? And if it is, has the church a right to require such to absent themselves from the communion? The Annual Meeting is also requested to reconcile Art. 24, of 1864, with Art. 2, of 1821.

Answer: We consider it not advisable for brethren to act in the capacity of administrators or executors, as it is attended with much difficulty. And, as it regards reconciling the two articles above named, there is not really as much difference as at first appears, since in Art. 2, 1821, permission is granted to the brethren to serve in the capacity alluded to, under certain circumstances.

Art. 6. Is it in accordance with the gospel for a brother to refuse paying his just debts, declaring his wife to be the lawful owner of all his property?

Answer: We consider it unjust for a brother to do so, and that such conduct should not be tolerated.

Art. 7. Is it consistent with the gospel for members of the church to have their profiles or miniatures taken; and, if inconsistent, how shall the church deal with such members who do so?

Answer: As the brethren, in Annual Council in former years, decided it to be wrong, or inconsistent, for members to have their profiles or miniatures taken, we advise them not to do so.

Art. 8. When there are two places of meeting in a congregation, the elder attending at one place, and two other ministering brethren at the other, is it according to the gospel for a minister in the second degree to authorize a brother in the first degree to baptize, after counseling the members present, in the absence of the elder or bishop?



Answer: We unanimously consider it consistent and valid, when authorized by a minister in the second degree and the members present.

Art. 9. If a member of a certain church is put in avoidance, how should members of those churches that can not see that avoidance is necessary hold such that are put in avoidance?

Answer: The adjoining churches, and members of adjoining churches, are to hold them as such, and also avoid all speaking against avoidance to the avoided one.

Art. 10. Can we not get a more scriptural plan to elect church officers?

Answer: We consider it best to defer this query for further consideration.

Art. 11. Would it not be better for all the churches to have one mode for holding the Lord's Supper?

Answer: We think it would be better, and hope the time will come when there will be a unanimity of practice among the brethren upon this subject, and we recommend all the brethren to pray and labor for this.

Art. 12. Inasmuch as it seems to have been the practice of the apostles, in setting a member apart for any special duty in the church, to do so by prayer and laying on of hands, would it not be more in accordance with the gospel to establish visiting brethren and speakers in their offices by prayer and laying on of hands, according to Acts 6: 6, and 13: 3?

Answer: Inasmuch as it does not appear plainly to all the brethren that it was always the practice of the apostles to lay hands on those appointed to any special duty, we therefore think it best to make no change at present in the order of installing speakers and deacons in their offices.

Art. 13. Inasmuch as the church of the brethren has always endeavored to maintain the principle of temperance, will the brethren composing this Annual Meeting admit that members may join a temperance society, in the present form such societies take, outside of the church?

Answer: As our brotherhood has, again and again, taken decided ground against intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and recommended to the brethren to abstain from their use as such, we see no necessity of joining ourselves to any other organization; and, therefore, we cannot allow brethren the privilege of doing so, but renew our solemn protestation against the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and consider it the duty of every member of the church to use his influence against them.



Art. 14. Is it expedient for brethren to put a reward on their property, when stolen, and try to recover the same?

Answer: We consider the Scripture to be satisfactory in the above case, without human expediency. Luke 6: 30.

Art. 15. Would not the following be a better way for organizing the Annual Meeting than that which is now practiced? Let each district council select one ordained elder as a member of the standing committee of the Annual Meeting, and should any vacancy or vacancies occur, the elders of the church holding the Annual Meeting shall supply the same from among the ordained elders present at the meeting.

Answer: We think it best to lay this question over until next year, with the understanding that the brethren where the next Annual Meeting will be held be instructed to select the standing committee, as much as practicable, according to the foregoing plan.

Art. 16. Does the fornication committed, as in Matt. 19: 9, place the parties in such a position that they can never be reconciled to each other and live together again?

Answer: The guilty party giving evidence of true repentance, they may be reconciled. (See 1 Cor. 7: 11; 2 Cor. 2: 6, 7.)

Art. 17. We desire this Annual Meeting to consider Art. 18, of the minutes of 1856, and give us the scriptural rule to govern such cases.

Answer: If the cause of separation be malice and ill-will, they can not be retained in the church, according to Heb. 12: 14, 15.

Art. 18. Do the Scriptures teach that it is committing adultery to marry a person who is divorced, while the first partner is living?

Answer: They do. (See Luke 16: 18.)

Art. 19. In the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1866, page 2, it is said that "any member falling under the counsel of the church, and being dissatisfied with the decision, may appeal to the Annual Meeting, by presenting a petition, signed by a number of the members of the church." Would it not be better to reconsider this clause or paragraph, and put it back to the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1849, Art. 26?

Answer: We think it not advisable to repeal the paragraph, but that we add what was intended, namely, this: The Annual Meeting shall hear their petition, through the standing committee, and if they deem their claim just, they shall grant them



a committee, who shall examine the case, and their decision shall be final.

Art. 20. If a brother wrongs a neighbor, who is not a member of the church, by not fulfilling his promise, so that his neighbor suffers damage; and the church, taking the matter into consideration, expels the brother for doing this and other crimes. Now, we wish to know whether the church has the right to receive that brother into the church again before he has made restitution. If it is wrong for a church to do so, what is to be done? What is to be done with a church that has done so?

Answer: The proceedings are wrong; and unless the church requires the brother to make restitution, the church shall make restitution.

Art. 21. Who are the proper persons to perform the duty of anointing the sick? James 5: 14, 15.

Answer: We think the minutes of former Annual Meetings give a satisfactory answer to this query.

Art. 22. Has Bro. E. Heyser a right, being a ministering brother, to receive pay from the government for teaching school in the South, under the employment and protection of the Freedmen's Bureau?

Answer: Inasmuch as Bro. Heyser is employed by the government in teaching school, and not in preaching the gospel, we can see no impropriety in the government paying him for teaching.

Art. 23. Do not the Scriptures enjoin fasting, in connection with prayer, as a frequent service? and will not this meeting recommend it, as a means of promoting a higher degree of perfection and holiness?

Answer. We think that according to the Scripture fasting, in connection with prayer, is attended with great advantages to those who observe it, and we earnestly exhort the brethren not to neglect this duty and privilege, as a private institution (Acts 10: 30); and that in important cases it should be enjoined upon the members as a means of sanctification and qualification for important duties. Acts 13: 1-3.

Art. 24. What is the established usage of the church in the use of the civil law in collecting debts, etc.? Is it altogether forbidden? If not, what is the extent of the privilege? If it is, can it be allowed for members, and especially ministers, to advise persons to sue, and publish a notice to their creditors that if their bonds are not paid when due they will be coerced by law?

Answer: We consider it is contrary to the gospel, as under-



stood by the brethren, to use the civil law in collecting debts, or in any other case where it would involve strife or litigation. Friendly suits are admitted, when the case is decided to be such by the council of the church. But to advise others to sue, or to publish that we will sue, is inconsistent with our principles, and would subject a brother to the judgment of the church, according to the gospel. (See Matt. 5: 40; Luke 6: 29.)

Art. 25. Can brethren be allowed to officiate in reconstructing the government, in holding elections, and participating in conventions?

Answer: We consider it contrary to the gospel, as understood by the brethren, to act officially in any government matter whatever. Luke 16: 13.

Art. 26. What is to be done with the housekeeper in an arm of the church, who neglects to examine the applicant for baptism, as laid down in the minutes of 1848, and republished in the minutes of 1858?

Answer: We think the elders of the adjoining churches should visit the housekeeper, and admonish him to proceed according to the order of the brethren, as laid down in the minutes.

Art. 27. Inasmuch as there are some members who are dissatisfied with the present manner of washing feet, and think that the one that washes should also wipe, can not the Annual Meeting grant a change, and bear with those that wish to practice as they understand it?

Answer: We consider it not advisable to make any change in the practice of feet-washing as heretofore practiced by the brethren.

Art. 28. Would it not be more consistent with all other rules and orders of the brethren to elect elders by votes in all cases?

Answer: We consider it best to make no change in the general manner of appointing elders, but we think cases may occur when the church, acting in concert with the elders who visit a church to ordain an elder, may take the voice of the church in which the ordination is to take place, to know which of the ministering brethren in the church desires to be ordained.

Art. 29. Is it consistent with the gospel to apply the term reverend to ministers of other denominations, or to our own brethren, either in speaking or writing?

Answer: We consider it not right to do so, since it is applied in the Bible alone to God.

Art. 30. Should not our church adopt some general plan



for the spread of the gospel, as the duty is enjoined upon her by the Savior himself? And does not an efficient plan imply some pecuniary provision?

Answer: This Annual Meeting hails the desire to have the gospel spread, and which is growing among the brethren as a favorable indication, and it would encourage this and recommend to the several states to take such measures as a prayerful consideration of the subject would suggest, to engage in this good work; and it would also recommend that such plans be adopted as would suggest themselves by such consideration, since no one plan can now be united upon, hoping that, as the work progresses, and as further light is elicited by reflection, observation, and experience, a greater and more efficient system may be adopted. In the meantime, let whatever is done be done according to the spirit and word of the gospel, as work done in any other way will not be approved by the Lord.

Art. 31. Should not the Annual Meeting adopt some definite rule with regard to the action of special committees asked for by any branch of the church, to settle matters that could not be settled otherwise?

Answer: Whereas, it is the privilege of any branch of the church, or member, to have a committee when asked for, such committee should have full power to dispose of any case submitted to it, provided the usual methods have been resorted to previously; and when settled by such committee, the decision shall be final. Acts 15: 22. (The five following articles were deferred to the next Annual Meeting, and will be acted upon as the first business of said meeting. The first four are answered by the district-meeting from which they came, and have only the authority of the district-meeting, and the answers are subject to any change the Annual Meeting may make, before they have the authority of the Annual Meeting. To the fifth or last question no answer was given by the district-meeting from which it came. The Annual Meeting directed these articles to be put on the minutes.)

Art. 32. Do the words of the Savior, "Except for fornication," as they stand connected with his other language, in the ninth verse of the nineteenth chapter of Matthew, annul the marriage covenant or contract, or do they only suspend it until fruits worthy of repentance are manifested on the part of the transgressor—to the satisfaction of the church?

Considered by this meeting that the words in question do annul the marriage contract. Referred.

Art. 33. Art. 40, on the minutes of the Yearly Meeting for 1865, being in relation to raising money by taxation.

Considered by this district-meeting that the article should



be reconsidered by the Yearly Meeting, inasmuch as this district-meeting concluded that it is not contrary to the gospel to raise funds by taxation, provided all the members in the same church are agreed to do so; but a noncompliance should not be a test of fellowship. Referred.

Art. 34. Art. 8, as it stands on the minutes of the Yearly Meeting for 1866, relates to a brother who had expressed a desire to be re-baptized.

Considered by this district-meeting that the case be referred to the church in which it exists, and the brethren there be authorized by the Yearly Meeting to proceed as the nature of the case may require. Referred.

Art. 35. Is it considered expedient for brethren to join debating schools or lyceums?

Considered by this meeting that it is not expedient for brethren to do so. Referred.

Art. 36. A man, having a wife, and she leaves him and takes up with several other men, one of whom is compelled by law to marry her; and some time after this the first mentioned man marries a single woman, and this woman made application to be received into the church, and the circumstances, as given above, not being known by the church, she was baptized; and then her husband also made application to be received. We desire the judgment of the Annual Meeting, whether this woman can be retained in the church, and whether her husband can be received?

The following committees were appointed by the meeting by request: 1. A committee to visit the Paint Creek and White Oak churches in southern Ohio. The following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy, J. P. Ebersole, John Hershey, John Frantz, Peter Nead, and James Quinter. 2. For Cherry Grove, Carroll County, Illinois, Samuel Gerber, Michael Sisler, and Martin Myers. 3. For the Brush Creek Church, Maryland, David Long, David Bosserman, and Henry Koontz. 4. For the Ridge Church, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, Moses Miller, D. Bosserman, J. G. Glock, Joseph Hanawalt, and Andrew Miller. 5. For New Hope Church, Augusta County, Virginia, Daniel Thomas, Jacob Miller, and Isaac Long. 6. For Otter Creek Church, Macoupin County, Illinois, J. R. Gish, John Fitz, Jacob Negley.

A request from the brethren in Elkhart County, Indiana, for the Annual Meeting in 1868, was made and granted. Accordingly, the Lord willing, the next Annual Meeting will be with the brethren above named.



After a season of devotional exercises the meeting adjourned.

J. Quinter, D. P. Sayler, Clerks.

H. D. Davy, Moderator.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1868.

Elkhart County, Ind.

On Tuesday morning, the 2d of June, an unusually large number of brethren being present, after the devotional exercises, the following brethren were announced as forming the standing committee: John P. Ebersole, Daniel Miller, Henry D. Davy, James Quinter, B. F. Moomaw, Daniel Thomas, Jacob Wine, D. P. Sayler, Isaac Pfoutz, David Long, Conrod J. Lint, Daniel M. Holsinger, Joseph Rohrer, David Bechtelheimer, Jacob Miller, Daniel Bowman, F. P. Loehr, Christian Long, John Metzger, Samuel Lehman, John Wise, Jacob Brower, Abraham Replogle, and Henry Brubaker. Bro. H. Kurtz and Peter Nead were invited to be present with the standing committee. The meeting was then regularly organized by appointing H. D. Davy, moderator, James Quinter, first-clerk, D. P. Sayler, second clerk, and Jacob Miller, door-keeper. It was then ascertained that the following state districts were represented: Virginia, district No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3; Maryland, the eastern and western district; Pennsylvania, the eastern, the middle, and the western district; Ohio, the north-western, the southern, and the eastern; Indiana, the southern, the middle, and the northern district; Michigan; Illinois, the northern and the southern district; Iowa, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Kansas. The delegates then, as they were called, presented their papers, and the following articles were found to constitute the business before the meeting. These were prayerfully considered and answered as the Scripture, reason, and experience seemed to require. (The first five articles acted upon were referred from the last meeting to the present.)

Article 1. Do the words of the Savior, "Except for fornication," as they stand connected with his other language, in the ninth verse of the nineteenth chapter of Matthew, annul the marriage covenant or contract, or do they only suspend it until fruits worthy of repentance are manifested on the part of the transgressor—to the satisfaction of the church? Considered, by this meeting that the words in question do annul the marriage contract.

Answer: We postpone this question indefinitely, but advise



the churches to proceed cautiously when they have cases of this character to act upon.

Art. 2. The second query asked for a reconsideration of Art. 40, of 1865, being in relation to raising money by taxation.

Answer: Though it may not be contrary to the gospel to raise funds by taxation, yet we think it is not expedient to do so. But we do believe that brethren should, in all their contributions to promote benevolent or charitable causes in the church of Christ, contribute, as a general gospel rule, according to what God has blessed them with.

Art. 3. This query refers to Art. 8, of 1866, and relates to a brother who wished to be re-baptized.

Answer: Inasmuch as we are informed that the case to which this article refers was disposed of in the church in which it occurred, we think it best to give it no further consideration at present.

Art. 4. Is it considered expedient for brethren to join debating schools or lyceums?

Answer: We think it not expedient for brethren to do so.

Art. 5. A man, having a wife, and she leaves him and takes up with several other men, one of whom is compelled by law to marry her; and some time after this the first-mentioned man marries a single woman, and this woman made application to be received into the church, and the circumstances, as given above, not being known by the church, she was baptized; and then her husband also made application to be received. We desire the judgment of the Annual Meeting, whether this woman can be retained in the church, and whether her husband can be received.

Answer: We refer this question back to the church in which it originated.

Art. 6. Would it not be better, and more in accordance with the sentiments of a majority of the brethren, to change our present manner of appointing the standing committee of our Annual Meeting, so that each district-meeting elect some one of the bishops within the district to constitute one of said committee? And would it not also be better to give the committee liberty, after it has elected its moderator, to elect its clerks and other officers from the body of the members present, rather than confine it in its choice to its own members?

Answer: We think it would be better so to do.

Art. 7. In choosing a brother to the ministry, would it not



be nearer to the spirit of the gospel to cast lots for one among those having received votes, than the way we have been proceeding heretofore?

Answer: We judge it best to make no change at present in electing our church officers.

Art. 8. Is it in accordance with the gospel to restrict a brother from preaching that which a branch of the body is permitted to preach and practice, and which is represented at the Annual Meeting from year to year, and is acknowledged as being in full fellowship with the church?

Answer: In restricting a brother in his liberty of preaching the gospel, we must not be governed by what any branch of the church may preach or practice, but we must be governed by what a brother preaches, and by the manner in which he preaches. The apostolic precept, "Let all things be done unto edification," is a rule to be observed in preaching as in every thing else.

Art. 9. When ministers of other denominations join the brethren, can they be received as ministers in any other way but in the regular order of the church?

Answer: We deem it not prudent to receive them in any other way.

Art. 10. Inasmuch as the questions whether the same member that washes feet should not also wipe, came up again at our district-meeting, we request the Annual Meeting, and the brotherhood throughout, to take this subject into serious consideration.

Answer: We think it well to comply with the foregoing request, and also to appoint a committee to visit those churches in which to practice the ordinance of feet-washing differently to the general order of the brotherhood.

Art. 11. Inasmuch as in some of the churches, or districts, the visiting brethren (deacons) are permitted to rise up in meeting to exhort, and even to preach, while in other churches, or districts, they are taught not to rise, but to bear testimony to the truth and to exhort while sitting, and are not allowed to rise for that purpose. As the Yearly Meeting of 1835 has defined the duties in Art. 4, it is agreed to refer this subject to the Annual Council for reconsideration.

Answer: We think it best to make no change from the present order.

Art. 12. What is to be done with a person who makes application to come into the church, confessing that he has truly repented, received faith in Christ, and upon that faith has been



baptized by a trine immersion for the remission of his sins by another denomination?

Answer: We think it best to make no change in reference to the subject alluded to in the article, from the present order of the brethren. (See Minutes of 1848, Art. 5.)

Art. 13. Would it not promote the profit and edification of the annual visit to the members of the churches to have a season of devotion, consisting of prayer and such other exercises as those who make the visit may feel at liberty to perform, in each family, when the circumstances will admit of it?

Answer: We think it would promote the edification of the members of the church to do so, and that when convenient it ought to be done.

Art. 14. As the Annual Meeting has given the liberty to hold Sabbath-schools, it is particularly requested that this Annual Meeting give a full and definite answer to the last question in Art. 1, minutes of 1862, that there may be a uniformity of practice among the brethren who hold, or who wish to hold, Sabbath-schools.

Answer: We advise that, where the nature of the case will admit of it, for brethren to hold Sabbath-schools, and such schools should be opened by singing and prayer, and closed by singing or by prayer, as it may be thought proper, and they should be superintended by brethren. And we advise the brethren to be very careful in introducing books, to introduce none that inculcate doctrines contrary to the gospel. And we further advise that brethren avoid taking part in or encouraging the Sabbath-school celebrations, common in the world.

Art. 15. Can there not be a more scriptural answer on the article of going on stands to preach, than that passed in our Annual Meeting in 1866, Art. 23?

Answer: We can give no better answer to it than that already given in the minutes of 1866, Art. 23.

Art. 16. How is it considered for brethren to open their doors, or give consent that fallen teachers should preach in their houses, or to attend their meetings, etc.?

Answer: We consider it wrong to open our houses for such to preach in, to attend their meetings, or to do any thing whatever to encourage them to preach.

Art. 17. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has decided that brethren may engage in merchandizing, with no other restriction than that they are not to sell intoxicating liquors should any other restrictions be added, and if so, what are they?



Answer: We think it best to refer this question back to the district-meeting from which it came.

Art. 18. Whereas, there is a difficulty in introducing the new hymn-book among the brethren where the German language is yet used, as there are none that contain both English and German hymns, would it not therefore be advisable to revise the German hymn-book, and make a small collection of the choicest German hymns, and combine them with the English book, and thus have some books containing both English and German hymns, to meet the wants of our German members and avoid the necessity of having more than one book in the church?

Answer: We consider it advisable to do so, and appoint the following brethren as a committee to select a number of German hymns, not exceeding two hundred, to be added to as many of the English books as it is necessary to supply the wants of the German brethren: Paul Wetzel, Henry Kurtz, F. P. Loehr, and D. M. Holsinger.

Art. 19. As there are some members who do not heed to the admonition given by the Annual Meeting of 1866, Art 27, will this meeting come to some plan that all the churches will carry out said admonition?

Answer: Considered the duty of each church to heed the instructions of the Annual Meeting, in any one or all of the different cases therein named.

Art. 20. Will this meeting consider the query of the Annual Meeting of 1866, Art. 47, allowing brethren three certain modes of wearing their hair? And, if approved of, we wish this meeting to give gospel for the same.

Answer: Considered, that in absence of direct Scripture, it is well for the younger to be subject to the older.

Art. 21. Our Annual Meeting has, on different occasions, decided in favor of adopting some plan for a more extensive spread of the gospel; we, therefore, request this meeting to adopt the plan of the Annual Meeting of 1858, Art. 58, or some other one.

Answer: This meeting adopts the report presented to the Annual Meeting of 1860. The following is the report referred to: "The committee appointed at the Annual Meeting in 1859, Art. 28, to propose some plan to the present meeting, by which the brotherhood in general may take some part in the good work of the Lord, in preaching the gospel more generally, reports as



follows: Whereas, the preaching of the gospel to every creature is a command of Christ, since he said to his disciples, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature' (Mark 16: 15), and, therefore, a duty enjoined upon all his disciples, hence it needs no argument in its defense. The only point to be considered, is: How shall it be done? Now, St. Paul says: 'Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges?' (1 Cor. 9: 7); and as the Lord Jesus gave every man his work, as well as his servants authority (Mark 13: 34): 'For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work,' it is, therefore, evident that he did not mean that his ministering servants should be burdened with the duty of preaching his word, and also bearing the expenses incurred in traveling from place to place, while all the members of the body remain idle. The committee understands the Lord Jesus to mean that the church, his body on earth (1 Cor. 12: 27), shall, unitedly, preach his gospel in all the world, by the ministry, through the Holy Ghost; and, therefore, the church should pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers; for so Jesus commanded his disciples, saying: 'The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.' Matt. 9: 37, 38. And it appears from the following account, in Acts 13: 2, 3, that this was the practice of the apostolic church: 'As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.' And, in view of the above considerations, the committee offers the following advice: That the churches of the brotherhood form themselves into districts, the brethren in those districts to meet, as often as they may judge it necessary, to transact their business; that each of said districts have its treasury, and each one of the churches which form said districts have its treasury, the former to be supplied out of the latter, and the latter to be supplied by weekly contributions, as directed by the Apostle Paul (1 Cor. 16: 2), 'Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come,' a plan for raising pecuniary funds, of divine appointment, and is one which commends itself to our acceptance, both from its authority and excellency. And in order that the funds collected may be the most judiciously, satisfactorily, and economically applied, we advise that each sub-district or church appoint at least one delegate to attend the general district-meetings, and that these meetings so dispose of the funds collected as they shall judge most conducive to the glory of God and the salvation of souls. And in order to preserve a proper harmony between all the congregations of the brotherhood, we further advise that each general district-meeting send a delegate to the Annual Meeting, and, by the delegate, a report of its proceedings, that all such proceedings may be in harmony with the regulations, as made by the brethren assembled in Annual Council, and subject to the inspection and control of that body. And in case any demands of a general character for evan-



gelists are made, sufficiently so to require the action of the Annual Meeting, then, in that case, the funds needed to defray the expenses of said evangelists shall be drawn from the treasuries of the several districts. And, as the conviction of mind seems to be general among the brethren, that greater exertion should be made by the brotherhood to have the gospel preached in every place, the committee would remind the ministry that the foregoing plan is by no means designed to supersede the labors of our ministers in their individual capacities. But we recommend to all our preachers to labor as they have been accustomed to do, without money and without price, as far as their circumstances will permit them to do so, showing, as they have hitherto done in a remarkable degree, the Christian grace of self-denial—a grace which shone brightly in the life of our divine Master, and which occupies a prominent place in his teaching. We further recommend to all our preachers to submit the above plan to their congregations, hoping that it will meet with their acceptance. All of which is respectfully submitted by the committee: D. P. Sayler, John Kline, John Metzger, James Quinter.”

Art. 22. Is it in accordance with the order of the brethren for the standing committee of the Annual Meeting to appoint elders to preside over a district, without the knowledge or consent of said district?

Answer: We think the standing committee has a right, under certain circumstances, to do so.

Art. 23. Is it consistent with the gospel, and the order of the brethren, for our ministers to teach, at our love-feasts, that members are justifiable in absenting themselves from the communion, after they have had their feet washed and partaken of the Lord's Supper? If this is not right, what should be done with members who will do so without giving any reason?

Answer: It is wrong to do as intimated above, and more wrong still to teach it, and it should be neither taught nor done.

Art. 24. Would it not be more in accordance with the example of Christ and his disciples, when the administrator is blessing the bread and wine in the communion for all the members to keep their seats?

Answer: Inasmuch as it is not said that Christ did not rise to his feet, and as it has been the order of the brethren to rise when we give thanks, we think it best to make no change.

Art. 25. Shall district-meetings be held openly before the world, or before the church only?

Answer: We think it best to hold our district-meetings as private meetings, but not so much so as to exclude any persons friendly to the brethren.



Art. 26. Can brethren, who do not possess the qualifications for deacons, required by the Apostle Paul to Timothy (1 Tim. 3), hold that office?

Answer: We think they can not.

The following committees were appointed by the standing committee: 1. For Marshall County, Indiana, Yellow River Church, Jacob Miller, of Portage, Jacob Berkey, and David Bechtelheimer. 2. For Tippecanoe Church, Indiana, Abraham Airbaugh, David Miller, Jacob Miller, Jacob Flory, Jacob Berkey, and F. P. Loehr. 3. The same committee will go to Eel River congregation, Indiana. 4. For Cedar Creek congregation, DeKalb County, Indiana, Daniel Brower, Allen County, Ohio, Jacob Wagner, Joseph McCarty, and John Brown. 5. For Macoupin County, Illinois, John Metzger, Christian Long, Henry Davy, Joseph Hendricks, and Samuel Lehman. 6. For Marshall County, Iowa, John Wise, Samuel Gerber, George Baker, and Elias K. Beeghly. 7. For Philadelphia and Germantown, D. P. Sayler, H. D. Davy, James Quinter, Daniel Thomas, and Moses Miller. 8. For Salamony Church, Indiana, H. D. Davy, Daniel Brower, John P. Ebersole, John Metzger, and Jacob Berkey. 9. A committee to Somerset County, Pennsylvania, Tobias Blouch, Abraham Stutzman, and D. M. Holsinger. 10. A committee to the Rock Run and Elkhart churches, Indiana, H. D. Davy, Daniel Miller, J. P. Ebersole, John Metzger, and Michael Sholtz. 11. To the Newton Church, Miami County, Ohio, Nathan Heywood, George Holler, Joseph Resor, and Isaac Miller. 12. To Pine Creek Church, Indiana, Jacob Berkey, Christ. Wenger, Ab. Witmer, and Jacob Miller. 13. To Waddam's Grove, Illinois, Michael Sisler, Martin Meyers, and David E. Price.

There were two requests for the Annual Meeting, one from Virginia, for the meeting in 1869, and one from Iowa, in 1870. The request from Virginia, for the meeting in 1869, was granted, and the next Annual Meeting, the Lord willing, will be held in Virginia. The corresponding brethren in the congregation in which it will be held, and other desirable information, will be given in due time through our periodicals.

After exhortation, singing, and prayer, the meeting adjourned.

James Quinter,

D. P. Sayler,

Clerks.

H. D. Davy, Moderator.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1869.

Peters Creek, Pa.

A considerable number of brethren assembled in the neighborhood in which the general council-meeting was to be held some days before the time for meeting. The brethren around in various places availed themselves of the opportunity afforded them for preaching, and quite a number of meetings were held, to the edification of the brethren, and, also, it is hoped, to the good of others.

On Tuesday morning the meeting was organized, and opened with devotional exercises, after which it proceeded to business.

The following subjects were presented to the meeting, and acted upon in the fear of the Lord, with the conclusions herein stated:

Article 1. Whereas, there have been certain petitions from southern Ohio presented to this Annual Meeting, and which have been extensively circulated through the brotherhood, wherein the petitioners have set forth certain grievances, and desire some change or modification in holding the Annual Meeting, and, also, in certain practices among the brethren; and, whereas, this Annual Meeting desires to maintain all the practices and ordinances of Christianity in their simplicity and purity, and to promote the "unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace;" therefore, though it can not grant the changes and objects desired by the petitioners to the full extent petitioned for, it will make the following changes in the manner of holding the Annual Meeting, and endeavor to guard, with increased vigilance, against the abuse of the practices referred to in the supplement, by advising and urging the brethren to observe the cautions and directions in reference to said practices, as hereinafter stated:

1. In relation to the appointing of the standing committee, we advise that the district-meetings select old, experienced, and established brethren; and that in signing the minutes we advise that a suitable number of elders sign them, but not as members of the standing committee, and the signers need not be confined to the committee. We also advise that the minutes be read to all at the close of the meeting, provided there is time, and it be found practicable to do so, and that the term "moderator," as applied to the brother who keeps order, be dropped. 2. In relation to holding protracted meetings for worship, we feel much impressed with the propriety of conducting said meetings in strict accordance with the gospel; that all disorder and improper excitement should be avoided; that care should be taken that the understanding be enlightened, as well as the passions awakened; that on all occasions, when candidates for church membership are vis-



ited and examined, they be dealt with as the gospel seems to require, and as the order of the brethren has sanctioned; that in noticing the success of preaching, we advise that the number of additions to the churches be omitted. 3. In relation to Sabbath-schools, we feel the great necessity of guarding against the prevailing manner in which these schools are conducted; of cautioning the brethren who take any part in them against having festivals, or anything of the kind that does not comport with the spirit of Christianity, which such schools are designed to promote; that care be taken lest pride be taught rather than humility, and that nothing be encouraged thereby that will conflict with the established order and character of the brethren, and that care should be taken that no offense be given to the brethren in these things. 4. In reference to the controversial articles published in our religious papers, we counsel and advise our brethren Quinter & Kurtz, and H. R. Holsinger, to publish nothing in their periodicals that disputes the practice of the precepts and ordinances of the gospel, as handed down to us from Christ and the apostles, through and by the forefathers of the church; and that Brethren Nead, Kinsey, and all the brethren who write, be cautioned upon this head, and are hereby given to understand that a disregard to this counsel will subject a brother to the counsel of the church. 5. In reference to prayer-meetings, social meetings, and Bible classes, we would say, that we advise the brethren to be very careful in conducting such meetings, when they have been introduced, and to conduct them not after the prevailing custom of the religious world, but in the order that the brethren conduct their meetings for worship; that brethren be cautioned against introducing such meetings where their introduction would cause confusion or trouble in the churches, and that elders always be consulted in introducing such meetings.

Art. 2. The committee appointed by the last Annual Meeting to visit the Philadelphia and Germantown churches, reported, and the following is the part of the report judged necessary to be entered upon the minutes, it being the result of the conference between the committee and said churches: "Whereas, the brethren of the Philadelphia and Germantown churches seem to feel assured that the practice of feet-washing in said churches has always been in the single mode, we find it necessary to bear with one another, and will do so, provided you restore the old order of the brethren, in having a full supper at communion meeting, the salutation of the kiss at the same time, and the practice of the two brethren praying at the commencement and close of our general meetings for worship, where there are two brethren present, concluding each prayer with the Lord's Prayer. If you will agree to this, we will report to the Annual Meeting accordingly. This was the last proposition submitted by the committee to said churches, and was accepted, with the qualification, as far



as practicable. We are happy to believe its acceptance will be a step toward a more complete union between the churches we met in conference and the general brotherhood. The foregoing report is respectfully submitted to the Annual Meeting, with the hope that it will take such action upon the subject as will further the blessed cause of truth and righteousness. Signed by the committee: D. P. Sayler, H. D. Davy, J. Quinter, B. F. Moomaw, M. Miller." This Annual Meeting accepts, for the present, the foregoing report, with the clause, "as far as practicable," stricken out.

Report of the brethren appointed by the Annual Meeting to visit the brethren in Adams and Hancock counties, Illinois: "Upon conferring with them, and investigating the subject of difference in the practice of feet-washing, we found that in presenting their papers to the Annual Meeting in 1859, they reserved the right to themselves of practicing feet-washing as they did before, and thereby the Annual Meeting got a wrong impression; and, furthermore, what confirmed that impression was this: they agreed in the paper above alluded to, to give and take counsel, and did not state to the Annual Meeting their reservation in the practice of feet-washing. We found, in our conference with them, that they are still willing to abide by the compromise made in 1856, and fellowship the brethren as it was then agreed upon by the Annual Meeting. And we further got an expression from them, that they have adopted, and will adopt, the minutes of the Annual Meeting in full, except in the practice of feet-washing. And, as we learned by investigation, that there was a misunderstanding between the parties, we laid down our power invested in us by the Annual Meeting to communicate, and return our report to the Annual Meeting, that it may act as it sees fit in the premises. And we further have to say, that we were kindly met and received by the brethren and sisters in Adams and Hancock counties, and found a Christian spirit manifested in them while we were with them, and only feel sorry that we could not effect a union in the practice of feet-washing. Signed by the committee: H. D. Davy, John Metzger, Samuel Lehman, Christian Long."

Whereas there has been a misunderstanding between the brethren in Illinois, visited by the committee, and the Annual Meeting; and, whereas, said brethren have accepted of the decisions of the Annual Meeting, and conformed to the order of the church in every respect except in the order of feet-washing; and, whereas, the different modes of washing feet have been much agitated among the brethren for some time past, neither to the edi-



fication of the brethren, nor to the promotion of holiness in the church; and, whereas, this Annual Meeting has given counsel, which, it is hoped, will stop said agitation and let the subject rest; therefore, this Annual Meeting concludes to bear a little longer with said brethren, and see what the result will be. It also advises brethren, when organizing new churches, to organize them in the practice of the ordinances, according to the general order of the brethren.

Art. 3. Would it not be more in accordance with the Scriptures, and the example of the Savior, to dispense with the salutation of the kiss at feet-washing, and at the communion?

Answer: We readopt the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1853, Art. 39.

Art. 4. What does this district think of the propriety of requiring brethren, who shall hereafter write and publish books, to submit them to a committee, appointed by the Yearly Meeting, for examination and approval, before they offer them to the public?

Answer: We think it advisable for brethren to do so.

Art. 5. How is it considered by the brethren, for a brother to take the benefit of the bankrupt law?

Answer: Considered not according to gospel. Matt. 5: 40; Luke 16: 9, 10.

Art. 6. As our fraternity disapproves of its members joining the Masonic order, and all secret societies, when a report is in circulation that some of the brethren belong to some such society, and the nature of the case being such that it is very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain testimony to prove the charge, has the church, under such circumstances, a right to question the brethren charged relative to the truth of the report, and if it has a right to do so, and exercises that right, and the brethren refuse to answer, what shall the church do?

Answer: Under the circumstances alluded to, we consider that the church has a right to question the brethren, to ascertain whether the report is true, and we think such brethren owe it in honor to themselves, and in justice to the church, to give a direct answer upon the subject, and failing to do so, they throw themselves liable to be dealt with as offending members.

Art. 7. Can a brother, consistently with the gospel, take the



benefit of the law by getting up a petition to locate a ditch according to law, and thus compel others to ditch?

Answer: We consider it most in accordance with the gospel, and the general principles of the brotherhood, not to use the law to compel men to do any thing.

Art. 8. Shall officers in the church, involved in difficulties, act in their office while involved in such difficulties, and when there are others holding the same office?

Answer: We think the case should be first investigated before officers are prohibited from acting in their offices.

Art. 9. Should brethren be allowed to anoint the sick without first knowing of them whether they are at peace with all, as much as lieth in them; and if not, should it not be required of the sick, before anointing them, to confess their faults one to another, that they may be healed, and whether they should be fully resigned to the will of God whether to live or die?

Answer: We consider the direction for anointing the sick, already given by our brethren, sufficient for ordinary occasions, but when any thing further is necessary, brethren called upon to anoint should act accordingly.

Art. 10. Do the brethren consider it in accordance with the order of the brethren, and tenor of the gospel, for members of the church to take a drink of water from the table at love-feast, while the tables are being furnished for supper, or thanks are offered at our communion?

Answer: Members should tarry one for another, according to Paul to the Corinthians. 1 Cor. 11: 33.

Art. 11. Which would be the most consistent with the teachings of the gospel, to have the supper off or on the table at the time of washing feet?

Answer: Inasmuch as the teaching of the gospel, in this respect, is differently understood by the brethren, we leave it with the churches to decide which course will give the most satisfaction and peace.

Art. 12. Shall we not determine, at this Annual Meeting, to make voting a test of fellowship? If not, then shall we not leave the whole matter to the decision of the brethren to do as they individually will, with all the discord and confusion we now have throughout the brotherhood?



Answer: We conclude to readopt the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1866, Art. 1.

Art. 13. Would it not be well for all committees called to settle difficulties in churches to keep a record of their preceedings, signed by the committee, and also by competent members of the church in which said committee acted, for reference?

Answer: We think they should keep a record, from the fact that so much misunderstanding occurs without it. A duplicate of the proceedings should also be left with the church, if it desires.

Art. 14. How is it to be considered when a brother is conscientious in wearing his beard on his upper lip (a full beard), and when there are other brethren who are conscientious in not saluting such brethren?

Answer: We consider that in all such cases as the foregoing, brethren should bear with one another.

Art. 15. Would it not be more in accordance with the gospel, and the order of the brethren, to have a more uniform practice in giving letters of recommendation to members moving from one arm of the church to another?

Answer: We think it best to let the churches write certificates as will suit them, as this has heretofore been the practice of the brethren.

Art. 16. Inasmuch as there is great dissatisfaction as regards the decision of the Annual Meeting relating to insurance, in permitting brethren to insure property but not life, and thus permitting the rich who own real estate to insure, but not the poor, should not a poor man be permitted to insure his life as well as the rich his property?

Answer: We defer this subject for the present.

Art. 17. As there seems to be a discord in the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1850, Art. 32, and the Annual Meeting of 1827, Art. 4, we wish to have them harmonized, if possible.

Answer: We consider that no unbaptized person can be a member of the church, and therefore can not be anointed.

Art. 18. How is it considered if the majority of a congregation decide against the decisions of the Annual Council, can the



bishops of said congregation act with the minority of said church, and the decision of the Annual Meeting?

Answer: He can, as the Annual Meeting is of higher authority than any one church.

Art. 19. Could not the Annual Meeting, during its several sessions, arrange a little better for the accommodation of the delegates, sent from the different districts on business, by providing seats for them near the standing committee, it having been the case on former occasions that they were crowded out to the remotest bounds of the assembly, to their great dissatisfaction.

Answer: Considered that the committee of arrangements should provide a number of seats nearest to the standing committee, sufficient to seat all the delegates sent from the districts.

Art. 20. Has an elder, or elders, a right to busy themselves with the affairs of another church, and take accusing queries concerning it to the Annual Meeting, against the bishops and elders thereof, and that secretly? If not right, what course should be pursued with those that would do so, to the very great dissatisfaction of the church?

Answer: There may be cases where they have a right to look up the affairs of another church. But it is wrong to accuse elders of a particular church anywhere secretly; and if they do, they should be admonished to desist.

Art. 21. Whereas, it has been repeatedly decided, at our Yearly Meeting, that it is wrong for members of the church to have their likenesses taken, what then is to be done with members that have their likenesses taken?

Answer: We consider it not right for members to have their likenesses taken, and if they have done so, they should be admonished to put them away.

Art. 22. What will this Annual Meeting do with regard to Art. 21 and its answer, of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1868?

Answer: We readopt the answer to said article given by the Annual Meeting of 1868, and recommend the brethren to carry out the plan and give it a fair trial.

Art. 23. Should not the query and answer of Art. 35, of 1865, be repealed? said query relating to outside testimony?

Answer: We think the decisions of former years go as far as we can go in taking outside testimony in trying members of the church.



Art. 24. Is it according to the gospel for brethren who are school teachers, whether lay members, ministers, or elders, at the expiration of their school, to have exhibitions, at which their scholars speak dialogues, and have two or three fiddles to keep up time, and have large crowds assembled together? And if it is wrong, can it be done? And if it is right, please give us Scripture for it, so that all may be satisfied.

Answer: We consider such exhibitons very wrong, and think brethren should not encourage them.

Art. 25. Whereas, Bro. H. Kurtz has requested this Annual Meeting to give the committee getting out the German hymn-book liberty to add a few more hymns than were at first decided, this meeting thinks the book should contain no more hymns than were first agreed to. And as it has been ascertained by this meeting that the German members are very anxious to have the German hymn-book completed, it requests the committee to get the book out as soon as possible, and by the united wisdom of all the committee.

Art. 26. Requests for committees: 1. A request from the Miami Church, Ohio. The request was granted, and the following brethren appointed: J. P. Ebersole, Daniel Brower, Joseph Kauffman, and Jacob Garver. 2. A committee for the Bush Creek Church, Maryland, was requested and granted, and the following brethren were appointed; H. D. Davy, John Wise, David Long, and Joseph F. Rohrer. 3. The following brethren were appointed as a committee to visit the Antioch Church, Indiana; H. D. Davy, David Bechtelheimer, Daniel Brower, Jacob Berkey, and J. Miller, of Portage. 4. The following brethren were appointed a committee to Fawn River Church, Indiana: Jacob Miller, of Portage, Jacob Berkey and Christian Wenger. 5. The following brethren were appointed a committee to visit the church in Bedford County, Pennsylvania: Grabill Myers, Jacob Price, and Moses Miller. 6. The following brethren form the committee to Tennessee to organize a church: Abraham Naff, David Derrick, and B. F. Moomaw. 7. The following brethren were appointed to visit the Price Creek Church, Ohio: Peter Nead, H. D. Davy, and Isaac Miller.

Art. 27. The request of the brethren of Black Hawk County, Iowa, for the Annual Meeting of 1870, was renewed, and it was decided, the Lord willing, to have the next Annual Meeting with the brethren in Black Hawk County, Iowa. Brethren E. K. Buechly and S. M. Miller were appointed corresponding secretaries. Their address is Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa.



The business before the council being disposed of, the meeting was closed with exhortation, singing, and prayer, as the brethren felt to praise God that he had favored them with his presence and help, and thereby enabled them to hold a very pleasant and successful Annual Council.

Standing committee and officers: Abraham Naff, John Wine, Peter Nead, John P. Ebersole, Henry D. Davy, Robert H. Miller, Jacob Flory, Jacob Berkey, John Metzger, Samuel Lehman, David Brower, Elias K. Buechly, John Wise, Grabill Meyers, David Gerlach, Isaac Pfoutz, D. P. Sayler, David Long, Abraham Malsby, F. W. Dove, James Quinter.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1870.

Waterloo, Black Hawk County, Iowa.

As usual a large number of brethren and sisters assembled in the vicinity of the place of the general council-meeting before the time for beginning the council. Meetings for public preaching were held in a number of places.

On Tuesday morning, June 7th, the meeting was duly organized, and opened with devotional exercises, among which was the reading of the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The council then proceeded to business, and the following subjects were duly considered and passed by the meeting, as herein stated:

Article 1. Should not a full report of questions and answers passed by the Annual Meeting be given, instead of merely referring to former decisions?

Answer: We think a full report of the answers should be put into the minutes, when they are not too long.

Art. 2. Is it considered right for a brother to take or receive a pension, back pay, or bounty, for services rendered to the government before he became a member of the church.

Answer: We think he may be allowed to do so.

Art. 3. As there has been a petition presented to this Annual Meeting for a committee to go to California and Oregon to organize churches, and to set things in order, the meeting appointed Bro. Jacob Miller, of Portage, and Bro. D. Sturgis, of South Bend, Indiana, as the committee. It was also decided to make provisions to defray the expenses of the committee, which it was supposed would be about three hundred dollars. Bro. Christian Wenger was appointed receiver to receive the funds collected. His address is South Bend, St. Joseph County, Indiana. To further the col-



lection of said funds, the elders were recommended to lay the subject before their congregations.

Art. 4. We desire an answer to Art. 16 of last Annual Meeting. The article is as follows: Inasmuch as there is great dissatisfaction as regards the decision of the Annual Meeting, relating to insurance, in permitting brethren to insure property but not life, and thus permitting the rich who own real estate to insure, but not the poor, should not a poor man be permitted to insure his life as well as the rich his property?

Considered, that we postpone this question.

Art. 5. Inasmuch as excommunicated persons do frequently, under the present system of our Annual Council, call for committees to reconsider their cases, and that most generally to the dissatisfaction of the church where such cases originated, will not this district-meeting petition our Annual Conference to consider this matter, and decide that all such requests for a rehearing shall be made to the elders in adjoining districts; and as they have more or less knowledge of the case, let them consider the propriety of giving such persons a rehearing? This query being taken to the Annual Meeting for further consideration, received the following answer:

Answer: This meeting judges it best to make no change from the present practice of the brotherhood in the subject referred to in the preceding query, but it thinks that the Annual Meeting should be very careful in appointing committees, and appoint none but what are absolutely required.

Art. 6. Whereas, there was a letter published in one of our periodicals soon after the last Annual Meeting, in which statements were made unfavorable to the integrity of the standing committee, and thereby involving, more or less, the character of the whole meeting, we therefore think that the correctness of the statements above referred to should be investigated, and consequently ask the next Annual Meeting to make such an investigation. The subject being considered, the Annual Meeting thought that an investigation was necessary, and appointed the following brethren a committee to investigate the subject: Solomon Garber, Jacob Wine, Peter Nininger, Moses Miller, and J. D. Trostle.

Art. 7. Whereas, S. Z. Sharp and H. R. Holsinger have drawn forth many expressions of censure, and have evidently greatly wounded the feelings of the members of the standing committee of last Annual Meeting, and also of very many members of the church, by the publication of certain reports that reflect very un-



favorably upon the conduct of said committee: therefore, the brethren composing the western district of Maryland, in district-council assembled, do request the Annual Meeting to appoint a committee to investigate the facts of the case and determine what acknowledgments or satisfaction must be made to restore harmony and love again, and this to be attended to at the Annual Meeting of 1870. The foregoing request was granted, and Samuel Garber, D. B. Sturgis, Jacob Miller, Daniel Wolf, and John Crist, were appointed a committee of investigation. In due time the following report of the committee was submitted to the meeting and adopted: We, the committee appointed by this Annual Meeting to investigate the cause of grievances set forth in Art. 7, after carefully investigating the matter, decide as follows: First: Bro. H. R. Holsinger assumed an unprecedented and unjustifiable course in employing a reporter without authority from the church. Second: In not regarding the counsel of the last Annual Meeting (Art. 1, clause fourth), in publishing S. Z. Sharp's letter, casting severe reflections on the standing committee, which Bro. H. R. Holsinger knew, or ought to have known, was a misrepresentation of the facts in the case proved to us. Third: In answering the defense of the standing committee, his criticism and language were unbecoming a brother. (See "Christian Family Companion," Vol. V, No. 45, pp. 696, 697, 698.) And we also find that the committee did no more than duty required of them in rejecting the reporter. It is also clearly proved to us that the committee offered Bro. H. R. Holsinger all the privileges he formerly enjoyed, to make his own report.

In consideration of the above, we require, in order to restore peace and harmony, that Bro. H. R. Holsinger acknowledge that he did wrong, and that he asks the forgiveness of the church. S. Garber, D. B. Sturgis, J. Miller, D. Wolf, J. Crist. After the reading of the report, Bro. H. R. Holsinger made an acknowledgment satisfactory to the meeting.

Art. 8. Is it the duty of the members of the church to take special care of their orphan children in getting homes for them among the brethren, and in having them raised up in the faith of the gospel?

Answer: We think it is according to Eph. 6: 4.

Art. 9. Whereas, a number of the district-meetings have sent to this Annual Meeting an expression unfavorable to a reporter making a full report of the proceedings of our Annual Meeting, therefore we resolve that no report by a reporter be made.



Art. 10. Is it according to the Scriptures, and the order of the brethren, for a brother who moves from one district of the church to another, and obtains his letter, to carry it for months and still refuse to give it up? And what is to be done in such a case, and which church is to consider it?

Answer: We consider the answer to Art. 5, in the minutes of 1866, a sufficient answer to the above query.

Art. 11. Is it the duty of the church to support a widow after she is sixty years of age, having nephews who are able to support her? (See 1 Tim. 5: 16.)

Answer: It is, provided the nephews have not the will or means to support her.

Art. 12. Would it not be prudent, since secret orders, such as Freemasons, Odd-Fellows, etc., are becoming more and more prevalent, to ask every applicant for baptism whether he belongs to any secret order?

Answer: We consider it necessary and prudent to do so.

Art. 13. A sister was received into the church years ago by single immersion, but upon the agitation of the subject, the question arises, can she be retained as a member of the church?

Answer: We consider that the gospel, and our consistency in regard to our practice of the gospel, require us to adhere strictly to our mode of immersion, as recognized in the minutes of our Annual Meeting. (See Minutes of 1841, Art. 5.)

Art. 14. Whereas, much dissatisfaction exists among the brethren, relative to the answer of the first article of the minutes of 1868, and the insertion of the answer of a district-meeting before the answer of the Annual Meeting, whereby many are unable to understand what the answer of the Annual Meeting to said query was, will the district-meeting agree to ask the Annual Meeting to define plainly to the whole brotherhood, through the minutes of this year, how much of said article is the answer of the Annual Meeting and authoritative?

Answer, yes; for we very much desire a better understanding on that subject, and we therefore ask a reconsideration of Art. 1, of the minutes of 1868. Answer: We agree to reconsider said article, and leave out of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1868 the answer of the district of eastern Maryland, which reads as follows: "Considered, by this meeting, that the words in question do annul the marriage contract." And as a large proportion of the brotherhood understand that it only suspends, while others understand that it annuls the marriage contract, and viewing this



difference of sentiment among us, and the majority believing that fornication only suspends the marriage contract, and as the tendency of the practice of the age is toward too great a looseness of the binding power of the marriage vow, we think it most advisable for the present, to act in the church as if the marriage contract is only broken by death.

Art. 15. Is it in accordance with the spirit of the gospel, and the order of the brethren, for a brother voluntarily to inform the civil authorities against a man for selling liquors contrary to law?

Answer: It is not.

Art. 16. A man goes to the army, and when he comes home his wife is married to another man, and she continues to be the second man's wife. Some time after he marries a widow, and they live together agreeably for some years. They both then make application to be received into the church by baptism, manifesting fruits of repentance to the satisfaction of the church, his first wife, in the meanwhile, still living in adultery. The church examines him concerning separation, and finds him innocent. Then examines the Scriptures, and the advice of the Annual Meeting of 1857, Art. 8; also, minutes of 1856, Art. 24, in the fear of the Lord, and in the presence of the applicants, and according to the best judgment the church receives them. Can they be held as members of the church?

Answer: They can not while they live together.

Art. 17. How is it considered, according to the gospel, if a man marries a wife, and afterward they part; then he marries a second woman, but puts her away because she is not an honest woman. Then he applies for a bill of divorce, and gets it. But he obtained no divorce from the first woman. Then, to satisfy the law, he marries his first wife, and he and his wife both make application to become members of the church; can they be received into the church?

Answer: They can be received by giving satisfactory evidence of true repentance.

Art. 18. How is it considered for members to argue that the old order of the brethren, in wearing a plain garment, is the tradition of men, and say there is no scripture for such order?

Answer: We consider it wrong for members to do so, and if they persist in such a course they should be admonished. (See 1 Peter 5: 5; 1 John 2: 16.)

Art. 19. How is it considered for members of the church to



absent themselves from meeting, from time to time, without any good or lawful excuse?

Answer: We consider it wrong for members to absent themselves from meeting, and should they do so for three or four times, they should be visited to ascertain the cause; and if no good cause can be given, they should be admonished. Heb. 10: 24, 25.

Art. 20. Since the Annual Meeting has, at different times, decided against the excessive use of tobacco (See Minutes of 1864, Art. 19), but the object desired has not yet been realized, we therefore ask this district-meeting to suppress its use altogether, except for medicinal or mechanical purposes, and to deal with such as use it according to Matt. 18, as we consider it proper to deal with members for wearing fashionable garments. Minutes of 1863, Art. 3, and Minutes of 1866, Art. 27. The district-meeting favored the request, and sent it to the Annual Meeting.

Answer: This Annual Meeting renews its disapprobation of the use of tobacco, and especially at the time and in the place of divine worship, and believes it should be classed with other vain and useless things.

Art. 21. Inasmuch as both the district and Yearly Meeting have decided that it is inconsistent with the gospel, and the order of the brethren, for a brother to preach who will not conform to the order of the church, shall not the church have the liberty to take his office from him, if he remains obstinate after being admonished?

Answer: We think it shall, after being admonished again and again by the church.

Art. 22. How do the brethren at this meeting consider it, if sisters are not willing to wear a covering on their heads at time of worship, according to the order of the brethren, and what is to be done with a minister that contends that there is no covering necessary but the hair?

Answer: We are to deal with such sisters mildly, but strictly. But such a minister should be admonished to withdraw such contentions, and if he does not adhere, he is to be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 23. Is it right for brethren or sisters to have musical instruments in their houses, such as melodeons or organs?

Answer: We think it not expedient to have them in our houses, when they cause offense, and we think, under such circumstances, every brother and sister that have them ought to be ad-



monished, in love, to put them away, agreeably to Eph. 5: 19; Col. 3: 16; James 5: 13.

Art. 24. What is the rule of the brethren, when a member is expelled, and removes into another or adjoining district, and after living in the other district some six or seven years, and then makes application for membership, which church shall then receive him with hand and kiss, after reconciliation is made with the church that expelled him?

Answer: The church in which he lives at the time he is restored.

Art. 25. Does the Annual Meeting consider it wrong for the brethren to hold their Sunday-schools in their meeting-houses?

Answer: We consider it not wrong, if such schools are conducted according to order, and by the consent of the church.

Art. 26. In relation to the anointing of Christ, as recorded in Matt. 26: 13, and presented by one of the district-meetings, we would say that the subject is worthy of our consideration and attention, but we do not think it best or necessary to give any direction as to time or place at which it should be preached; and because of its length we omit the query, as it came from the district-meeting.

Art. 27. Why is it that the brethren use leavened bread at their love-feasts? Had we not better take the example of Christ and the apostles, and use unleavened bread?

Answer: We do not believe it right to keep the Jewish customs.

Art. 28. Will the brethren of this Annual Council take into consideration the importance of having the bread and wine on the table at supper, so as to harmonize with the gospel?

Answer: We think it best to adopt the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1864, Art. 26, which reads as follows: "We think, in case of any change being desired in the established order, in any branch of the church, especially with regard to the communion, it would always be best and safest, for the preservation of love and union, to take no steps in any change of this kind, until the whole church is agreed, or the district-meeting is consulted."

Art. 29. Inasmuch as the district-meetings have no regular order for appointing delegates to the Annual Meeting, we offer the following method to the brotherhood: Let three official members constitute a committee for receiving the votes of the delegates from the several churches comprising the district-meetings. The above plan for appointing delegates to the Annual Meeting was



submitted by the standing committee and accepted by the General Council.

Art. 30. In compliance with the requests made, the following committees were appointed: 1. To the Cold Water Church, Butler County, Iowa, David Brower, Henry Strickler, and Peter Forney. 2. To the Eel River and Washington churches, Indiana, Hiel Hamilton, Jacob Wagner, and Jacob Flory. 3. To the Rock River, West Branch, and Yellow Creek churches, Illinois, H. D. Davy, John Wise, and John Metzger. 4. To the Rush Creek Church, Ohio, H. D. Davy, James Quinter, John Wise, J. P. Ebersole, and Eli Stoner. 5. To the Georges Creek Church, Pennsylvania, H. D. Davy, John Wise, and C. G. Lint. 8. To the Snake Spring Valley Church, Pennsylvania, Joseph Hanawalt, John Gluck, Isaac Myers, Moses Miller, and J. Berkey.

Art. 31. The request from the eastern district of Pennsylvania, for the Annual Meeting of 1871, was granted and, therefore, the Lord willing, the next Annual Meeting will be with the brethren in the above-named district, in 1871, commencing on Tuesday after Pentecost. Christian Bomberger, Rothsville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and Samuel R. Zug, Mastersonville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, are the corresponding secretaries, with whom correspondence can be held. Further particulars, as to place, etc., will be given in due time.

It was resolved that Bro. John Buechly, of Illinois, be the agent for obtaining railroad privileges west of Pittsburg and the Ohio River, and Bro. Christian Custer, of Philadelphia, for obtaining such privileges east of Pittsburg.

The business before the meeting being disposed of in much harmony and love, after a short season of devotional exercises, in which the six hundred and eighty-fourth hymn was sung, a short exhortation given, and supplication and thanksgiving offered, the council closed, leaving, apparently, the lingering impression upon many minds that it was good to be together.

Standing committee and officers: J. Trostle, D. Long, D. Gerlach, I. Myers, John Wise, H. D. Davy, D. Brower, D. J. Peck, F. P. Loehr, P. Nininger, Jacob Wine, J. Quinter, Christ. Wenger, Jacob Metzger, Hiel Hamilton, E. Eby, M. Sisler, John Metzger, Jacob Hauger, G. R. Baker, A. Replogle, G. Witwer, Wm. Gish.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1871.

## Berks County, Pa.

On Monday afternoon the standing committee met, and organized by the appointment of the necessary officers.

On Tuesday morning the meeting was opened with devotional exercises, and the reading of the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, after which the business commenced.

Upon the reception of the papers from the delegates from the district committees, it was ascertained that the following subjects were designed to come before the General Council. They were accordingly considered and acted upon, as herein stated:

Article 1. What is to be done when a church needs a brother in the second degree of the ministry, but lacks confidence to advance the one that is oldest in office; yet, out of necessity, the church has tried twice to advance him, but was opposed each time by the majority of the members voting against him?

Answer: The brother should be informed of the cause of such opposition, so that he may have an opportunity to remove it; and if he can remove the cause, then the church may, and should advance him; but if the cause is not removed, then the church may advance the next one in office.

Art. 2. Inasmuch as the brethren, assembled in Annual Council in 1858, saw no inconsistency in deacons rising to their feet to exhort, and as some of the elders, when installing deacons, still charge them to keep their seat, would it be inconsistent, when thus charged, for them to rise to exhort?

Answer: We think all deacons should have the privilege to rise when it becomes their duty to speak, and that elders, when installing deacons, should observe this decision.

Art. 3. Does the Annual Meeting of 1871 claim Salem College, of Bourbon, Indiana, to be under the auspices of our brotherhood?

Answer: It does not regard it as a church school, or conducted by the general brotherhood, though it is under the auspices of members of the church, and is supported by those who patronize it, and not by donations of the church.

Art. 4. Will this district-meeting approve of the following amendment to the plan of holding Annual Meetings: Let the districts send one delegate to represent them on the standing com-



mittee, and each congregation send one representative, and these to compose the Annual Meeting, and all queries to be decided by that body alone?

Answer: We think it best not to make the change asked for, at present.

Art. 5. Is it according to the gospel for a brother to swear his life against a brother?

Answer: Not according to the gospel.

Art. 6. Whereas, the eastern district of Maryland has decided that our colored brother, Elias Fisher, be authorized to preach the gospel to the colored people, and since he was installed there have been exceptions taken to the manner of his promotion, will this Annual Meeting confirm the decision of the eastern district of Maryland?

Answer: In relation to the above case, it appears, from what this Annual Meeting has learned, that there has been a failure on the part of the elders in the district to authorize Bro. Fisher to preach, and owing to said failure, a brother in the second degree installed him, by the laying on of hands. As this was a departure from the practice of the church, we think it was very improper; and, while we recognize Bro. Fisher as a minister among us, we consider him only in the first degree, regarding the laying on of hands as conferring no official authority whatever.

Art. 7. Should not this district adopt measures to provide and supply ministerial aid for churches where there is no preacher? and also to fill calls, open missions, preach the gospel, and introduce the principles of the brethren in the many sections within said district, which they have not yet reached?

Answer: This Annual Meeting approves of the suggestions in the above query, as it is very necessary that churches or bodies of brethren, in which there are no resident ministers, should be assisted; and inasmuch as there are many localities where the gospel, as preached and practiced by the brethren, is not known, we think the gospel should be taken into such places. As it regards the measures necessary to accomplish these objects, we think the district should adopt such measures as it judges best calculated to answer its purpose.

[Note.—This query came to the Annual Meeting without any answer. It was the duty of the standing committee to form an answer to it, and submit said answer to the General Council. The above answer was accordingly formed and submitted to the committee, and received the unanimous vote of the committee. But owing to the fact that it was not answered, it was deferred, when first introduced, and was afterward overlooked. It then occurred



to the mind of the clerk that it had been overlooked, and he regretted it very much. Having an opportunity to do so, he mentioned the circumstances to several of the standing committee after the meeting closed, and they thought it might be put on the minutes. We accordingly insert it, not as having received the sanction of the General Council, but that of the standing committee.—Clerk.]

Art. 8. Will the district-meeting petition the Annual Meeting to reconsider and revoke Art. 27, of the minutes of the Annual Meeting, passed A. D. 1856, relative to the holy kiss?

Answer: This Annual Meeting thinks it best to make no change of Art. 27, of 1856.

Art. 9. Is it in accordance with the gospel for brethren to belong to the building and loan associations now organized in different parts of the country?

Answer: We advise the brethren not to unite with such associations until they understand them properly, and are satisfied that uniting with them does not conflict with the gospel.

Art. 10. Is it the duty of the church to support a widowed sister over threescore years old, and who has nephews that are members of the church, and these nephews being able to support her?

Answer: We agree to defer this subject to our next Annual Meeting.

Art. 11. Is it according to the gospel, and the order of the brethren, in case a member wishes outside testimony to prove his position in a matter of difference between members in the church, to have said testimony qualified by an oath or affirmation?

Answer: We consider it not according to the gospel for members to require outside evidence under oath or affirmation.

Art. 12. Does the gospel teach that the brethren are (by the gospel) to aid one another in case of loss; and if so, ought they not to establish their own insurance companies, and not insure in those of the world?

Answer: We conclude to defer this question until our next Annual Meeting.

Art. 13. Would it not be in harmony with the Scriptures, and the councils of our brethren, when there is considerable difficulty in a church, and the cause of the Master suffers in conse-



quence thereof, for the elders of the adjoining churches to visit said church and set things that are necessary in order?

Answer: We consider it would be in harmony with the Scriptures, and the order of the brethren, to do so.

Art. 14. Is it considered right for a brother in the ministry to exercise his own judgment in reference to remaining in or moving out of the church in which he was chosen, or must he remain in said church or district until the brethren there see proper to let him go?

Answer: We consider that it would be best for all ministering brethren, before leaving a church, to counsel it, and it should spare him if it can do so.

Art. 15. Would it not render more general satisfaction if churches which have difficulties to settle would, when they fail to settle them, call upon the elders in the adjoining churches to come to their assistance; and if, in case a committee be after that needed, let them apply to their annual district-meeting, instead of our General Conference, for said committee, and let it be selected from the churches which compose said district-meeting, saving much expenses, etc.?

Answer: We think it best to make no change in regard to the authority for appointing committees to make a final settlement of difficulties.

Art. 16. When a brother has fallen into the judgment of the church, and it takes an action in his case to the dissatisfaction of the brother, and he wants a rehearing or an investigation of the church's proceedings, what is the proper course to be pursued to get a rehearing?

Answer: The expelled member shall first apply, through the officers, to the church which acted on the case; if, however, the officers refuse to bring it before the church, the elders in the adjoining churches may call said church together to ascertain whether it will grant a rehearing to the expelled member. But, if the church refuses to grant a rehearing, then the said expelled member should obtain what names of the members in the church he can to a petition to the Annual Meeting for a committee to investigate the case.

Art. 17. Will not this Annual Meeting recall the privilege granted to establish Sunday-schools, especially where the church is not entirely unanimous?

Answer: We do not recall the above privilege, but where the



establishing of Sunday-schools would cause trouble or division, brethren had better desist from introducing them.

Art. 18. Is it right for members of the church, even elders and deacons, to make dinners or feasts on Sundays, or on other days, spending much time in baking and cooking, and setting their tables with many luxuries, and then inviting other members, and such as are not members, to come and feast with them; and then, while eating, be engaged in vain conversation, such as jesting and joking, and perhaps eating to excess?

Answer: We consider it utterly wrong for brethren to do so. (See Eph. 5; 1 Peter 4.)

Art. 19. How is it considered for members of the church to attach themselves to the Washington Mutual Live Stock Insurance Company?

Answer: We consider that brethren should not join any society by which they jeopardize their non-resistant principles.

Art. 20. Can the church hold a man and his wife, both members of the church, when the one will not live with the other under any circumstances whatever?

Answer: We consider that the elders in the adjoining church shall investigate the case, and dispose of it according to its merits and the principles of the gospel. Being informed of the case that gave rise to the above query, we name John Metzger, Samuel Lehman, and Daniel Fry to attend to it.

Art. 21. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has decided that it is not proper to secure a debt by mortgage (See Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1825, Art. 2), would it be proper for a brother to close such mortgage when the debt is not paid according to contract?

Answer: We have no objection for brethren to secure money by mortgage, but we can not advise brethren to close a mortgage by a process of law.

Art. 22. We desire an explanation, with an answer, on the words "again and again," used in answer to Art. 27, of the Annual Meeting of 1866, as the word or words, "again and again," is or are not scriptural language. Hence, how often must an offending member be admonished to be admonished again and again, before an action can be taken against it?

Answer: We still feel, as the brethren have always felt, that it is difficult to lay down a definite rule to apply to all cases concerning the subject alluded to in the query. We think that the



wisdom of the churches should dictate the proper method of treating such cases. Where the general conduct of members is such as becomes the gospel of Christ, and there seems to be no inclination to follow the fashions of the world, and their apparel is modest and not gay, forbearance should be exercised toward such members, hoping they will in time adopt the plain garment, as this is considered one of the peculiarities of our fraternity, and in accordance with the Christian grace of simplicity taught in the gospel. In cases, however, where members, instead of conforming to the order of the brethren in plainness of dress, conform to and follow the fashions of the world, such should be dealt with more rigorously; and, if after several admonitions, there seems to be no improvement, they should be dealt with according to Matt. 18; and in dealing with such cases, both the salvation of souls and the purity of the church should be kept in view.

Art. 23. If a speaker's or visiting brother's wife dies, and he marries a woman that is not a member of the church, can he still officiate in his office? A scriptural decision is requested.

Answer: We think he can; for where there is no law, there is no transgression.

Art. 24. Whereas, it is generally understood by the brethren, that members of the church are not permitted to attend places of merriment, such as state and county fairs, celebrations, circus shows, mass-meetings, and political conventions, etc., and as we can not find any thing in the minutes on the subject, a decision from the Annual Meeting is desired.

Answer: We consider that the answer given by the Annual Meeting of 1859, Art. 14, covers and applies to all the cases referred to in the query. The answer to Art. 14, in the minutes of 1859, reads as follows: "Such brethren should be admonished not to attend such places; and if they still persist in doing so, they should be dealt with according to Matt. 18."

Art. 25. Will this Annual Meeting permit brethren and sisters to attend animal shows?

Answer: This Annual Meeting can give no such permit.

Art. 26. Is there not some way of bringing members to an account, who speak disrespectfully of and disregard the counsels of the Annual Meeting, and district and sub-district-meetings?

Answer: Such members should be admonished, and if they will not hear, they should be dealt with as transgressors. (See also, Minutes of 1866, and a paragraph under the heading, "The Organization of the Annual Meeting.")

Art. 27. Is it advisable for a brother to serve as manager or teacher of a college or high school, as the tendency thereof is to



lead many of the brethren from the simplicity that is in Christ, and also to divide the brotherhood?

Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has admitted the propriety of a high school, as a private enterprise (See Art. 51, 1868), we can not prohibit a brother from engaging in teaching in such an institution; and as it regards the fears that many entertain of the tendency of such an institution to lead brethren from the simplicity of the church, this will depend upon the character of the institution. And to guard the Salem College against any such tendency, this Annual Meeting advises the elders of the church district, in which the college is located, to take into its charge all the teachers and scholars of said college, who are members of the church, and require of them to conform to the general order of the brotherhood.

Art. 28. Would it not be better to dispense with the district-meetings entirely, and go back to the plan of 1848, for holding the Annual Meeting?

Answer: We think it best not to make the change asked for.

Art. 29. Will not the Annual Meeting make it binding on all the churches to furnish all members, moving from one place to another, with letters of recommendation, or a reason why not when asked?

Answer: The churches shall give recommendations, or a lawful reason why not.

Art. 30. Inasmuch as the brethren are misrepresented and abused by enemies, saying the Brethren's Encyclopedia is our discipline, kept secret by a few leading brethren, would it not be better to advise the publisher to have no more bound?

Answer: We do not recognize the Brethren's Encyclopedia to be a discipline of the church, but we consider the reasons given in the query insufficient for making any change in regard to publishing it.

Art. 31. Would it not be best to allow all brethren in the second degree of the ministry to represent the churches in Annual Meeting, and sit on the standing committee, if sent by the district-meeting?

Answer: We think it best to make no change.

Art. 32. In order to avoid imposition on the churches, should not all the members of the church, and especially traveling preachers, be furnished with a certificate, properly signed, showing their standing in the church?

Answer: We consider it advisable that members of the church,



under the circumstances alluded to, should be supplied with certificates.

Art. 33. What course should be taken to bring into order an individual arm of the church, which is much out of order in regard to wearing of apparel, and implicated with the world in attending school exhibitions, and debates, so that their influence extends into neighboring churches, causing trouble there?

Answer: We consider it the duty of the elders of the surrounding churches to take notice of such churches, and set them in order.

Art. 34. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting of 1870, Art. 12, has decided that applicants for baptism should be asked whether they belong to any secret order, and as our fraternity is opposed to all secret societies, would it not be well to adopt some plan by which the members may be interrogated yearly, before we hold our communion meetings, upon the subject of secret organizations?

Answer: We consider it necessary to interrogate members upon the subject alluded to in the query, where there is any reason to believe they belong to secret societies, but any thing further we think unnecessary.

Art. 35. According to Art. 14, in minutes of 1869, can the church tolerate a brother who assails the Annual Meeting by writing against its decisions in the periodicals of the brotherhood?

Answer: We think it is wrong for a brother to do so, and any doing it should make satisfaction to the church.

Art. 36. Would it not be more consistent with the gospel for the brethren to adopt a definite name in writing letters of recommendations?

Answer: We think it would be good to head all letters of recommendation as follows: "We, the German Baptist Brethren, send greeting."

Art. 37. Whereas, this Annual Meeting finds, to its great regret, that the subject of feet-washing, in its single and double mode, as the difference is called, has produced serious difficulties already among us, and threatens still greater difficulties in the future. Questions relating to this subject have come from different localities in the brotherhood and it has assumed such a degree of importance as to commend it to the serious and prayerful attention of the brotherhood. Under these considerations, with much prayerful reflection, the propriety has suggested it-



self to us of calling the elders of the brotherhood together to consider this matter, as the apostles and elders did to consider the case of circumcision. Acts 15: 6. We have therefore concluded to request all the ordained elders of the brotherhood to meet, in the fear of the Lord, and under a due sense of their responsibility, in solemn assembly, on Whit-Monday, 1872, at the place of our next Annual Meeting, to dispose of this subject as the peace and prosperity of the fraternity require.

In the meantime, no church should be organized under the single mode, neither should any church change from the double to the single mode. And in order to obtain all the information possible to present unto the council of elders above alluded to, we appoint the following brethren as a committee to ascertain, as far as possible, which was the first mode practiced by our brethren in America: D. P. Sayler, Jacob Reiner, and J. Quinter.

Art. 38. Calls for committees: 1. A request for a committee to visit the West Branch Church, in Darke County, Ohio, to settle difficulties. This was granted, and the following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy, James Quinter, Samuel Mohler. 2. A request for a committee to visit the Pine Creek Church, Ogle County, Illinois, for the same purpose. This was granted, and the following brethren constitute the committee: Samuel Lehman, Martin Myers, and Michael Sisler. 3. For a committee to the West Conestoga and Chiques Creek churches, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to settle difficulties. The following are the brethren appointed: Joseph R. Hanawalt, Samuel Lehman, Daniel Fry, John G. Gluck, John Metzger, and F. P. Loehr. 4. A request for a committee to visit the Sugar Creek Church, Allen County, Ohio. The following brethren were appointed: Abraham Airbaugh, Abraham Flory, John Brilhart, Noah Hendricks, and Samuel Mohler. 5. A request for a committee to visit the Milmine Church, in Piatt County, Illinois, to settle difficulties in said church. The following brethren were appointed: J. R. Gish, George Gish, Daniel Nehr, and D. M. Holsinger. 6. A request from the Limestone Church, Washington County, Tennessee, to settle difficulties. The following brethren were appointed on the committee: Peter Crum-packer, Abraham Neff, and B. F. Moomaw. 7. For Elkhart Valley congregation, for the same purpose. Jacob Berkey, C. Wenger, Jacob Miller, of Portage, D. B. Stutsman, and A. Whitmore.

Art. 39. Requests for the Annual Meeting: 1. A request from the brethren in northern Ohio for the Annual Meeting in 1872. 2. A request from the brethren in the Elklick Church, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, for the Annual Meeting in 1873. 3. A re-



quest from northern Indiana for the Annual Meeting of 1874.

There being but one request for the Annual Meeting in 1872, and that from the brethren in northern Ohio; the meeting will be held, the Lord willing, at the usual time, with the brethren in that part of the brotherhood. Information in regard to the place at which it will be held, and other particulars, will be given in due time.

Bro. Christian Custer, of Philadelphia, was appointed to confer with the railroad companies in regard to obtaining half-fare privileges.

The meeting closed as it commenced, with devotional exercises; and after thanking the Lord for the pleasant season of Christian fellowship which many of his children enjoyed, and after commending ourselves to the protection of his providence and the word of his grace, the brethren and sisters separated with mingled feelings of joy and sorrow, produced by the reflections awakened by the occasion.

Standing committee and officers: John Zug, Moses Miller, John Wise, D. P. Saylor, David Long, Peter Crumpacker, Solomon Garber, Martin Cossner, David Derrick, F. W. Dove, D. J. Peck, J. P. Ebersole, H. D. Davy, J. Miller, Jacob Karns, George Hoover, D. Fry, John Metzger, John Harshey, Benjamin Beeghly, and James Quinter.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1872.

### Wayne County, Ohio.

On Monday a large number of elders collected, according to previous arrangement, and conferred with one another upon the subject they met to consider.

On Tuesday morning the general council-meeting was opened in the ordinary manner, by devotional exercises, and the reading of the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

In opening and examining the papers presented to the council, it was ascertained that the following subjects were sent to the meeting to be considered. Accordingly they were considered in the fear of the Lord, and decided as herein stated:

Article 1. Has the church a right to pass resolutions and decisions, and enforce them to the expulsion of members from the body, without thus saith the positive law of the Lord?

Answer: The church shall not expel any member without gospel authority.



Art. 2. A request to reconsider Art. 20, of Annual Meeting of 1870. There was a reconsideration of the article referred to, and the answer of 1870 was renewed, and ordered to be put on the present minutes. It is as follows: "This Annual Meeting renews its disapprobation of the use of tobacco, and especially at the time and in the place of divine worship, and believes it should be classed with other vain and useless things."

Art. 3. Are members justifiable in refusing to commune with bishops of any other churches who tolerate pride in their churches, when the Annual Meeting makes it their duty to enforce plainness?

Answer: Not until it is understood that the elders who are said to have tolerated the evil alluded to have been admonished and labored with, to get them in order.

Art. 4. Has the church the right to enforce her decisions according to Matthew 18, in matters where the gospel is silent?

Answer: There may be evils of sufficient magnitude to require a resort to the extreme of the course we are directed to pursue in Matt. 18, though these evils for which members are dealt with may not be specified in the gospel, but at the same time are clearly violations of the principles of the gospel.

Art. 5. Is the gospel a perfect law to govern the church in all things necessary to salvation?

Answer: It is.

Art. 6. What is the ancient and established order of the brethren, when elders are called to labor in another arm of the church? Are they to be taken in the private council with the laboring brethren of that church, or not?

Answer: They may be taken into the private council.

Art. 7. Is it according to the order of the brethren in private council that there be a unanimous consent of the "official brethren" concerning any matter before it can come before the church?

Answer: The official brethren should not bring a matter before the church, if they are divided, until they have called the assistance of bishops of adjoining districts.

Art. 8. Can the church tolerate a member in the body that is a member of the society or order called Grange or Patrons of Husbandry?

Answer: No brother or sister should have any thing to do with such an order, it being a secret-bound, and from appearance, a



political association; and members who have united with it, and persist in it, should be dealt with as transgressors. (See Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1870.)

Art. 9. Is it right, according to the gospel and rules of the brethren, for one arm of the church to delegate to another arm the power of restoring back to the church a member who had formerly been disowned by the arm first named above?

Answer: It has the power, by sending the charge with the testimony, in connection with the testimony where the member resides.

Art. 10. Does this district understand the Annual Meeting to mean that we should dispose of our likenesses entirely when it advises us to put them away? (See Minutes of 1869, Art. 21.)

Answer: This Annual Meeting understands the phrase "put them away" to mean to put them out of public sight.

Art. 11. What is to be done with a district of the church that tolerates its members in taking illegal interest for money loaned, after the Annual Meeting has decided again and again that it is wrong to do so?

Answer: This Annual Meeting thinks that that church should be visited by the elders of the adjoining churches, to set in order the things that are wanting.

Art. 12. Is it according to the gospel, and the order of the brethren, for members of the church to teach instrumental music in public schools, or elsewhere? We desire the dear brethren, assembled in district-meeting, to give us an answer on this subject.

Answer: Whereas, we know of no direct Scripture on the subject, we can only give our advice on the query. And as we believe instrumental music to be of the world, and not of the true church of God, we think members had better not engage in teaching it. But we submit our answer to the Annual Meeting. This Annual Meeting confirms this answer.

Art. 13. Whereas, the Annual Meeting of 1866, in organizing district-meetings, says: "The district-meetings shall endeavor to settle all questions of a local character"; and, whereas, it is known that questions of such a character have been settled, according to truth and justice, by individual churches, aided by elders called by the church. Yet there are always some members who are dissatisfied, and appeal to the Annual Meeting for committees from abroad, at heavy expenses, etc., which are no more competent of deciding correctly than are the elders in the



district in which the cases occur; therefore the district of eastern Maryland petitions the Annual Meeting to authorize the several district-meetings to settle all questions and cases arising among them, not of a doctrinal character.

The Annual Meeting postponed this question.

Art. 14. Will the Annual Meeting confirm or reject the answer formed by the standing committee to Art. 7, of the minutes of 1871?

Answer: This Annual Meeting confirms said answer.

Art. 15. Can brethren in the ministry, who have fallen into the gross crimes mentioned by Paul in 1 Cor. 5, ever be restored to their office? And if they can, in what way shall it be done?

Answer: We think they may, under some circumstances, and the church having to act should judge whether such circumstances exist. But we think it should be, by the unanimous consent of the church, and in the presence of at least three elders. But there are some cases so grievous that we can not receive them into their office.

Art. 16. Will not this meeting urge a change in holding our Annual Meeting, as the present system is very unsatisfactory? A reconsideration of Art. 4, of the last Annual Meeting, is desired.

Answer: This Annual Meeting readopts the answer of Art. 4, 1871.

Art. 17. The following resolution contains the decision of the meeting upon the subject of feet-washing: Make no change whatever in the mode and practice of feet-washing, and stop the further agitation of the subject.

Art. 18. Whereas, both the new English hymn-book, and also the German, are not used in some few of the churches of our brotherhood; and, whereas, the use of the two books, the old and the new, causes at times considerable inconvenience, and for this and other reasons it is desirable that but one book should be used in our churches; and, whereas, the reason given by some brethren for not introducing the new book, is that the Annual Meeting has never given them its sanction; and, whereas, the English book had, before its publication, been presented to the Annual Meeting for an expression of its judgment upon the character of the work, but for want of time no expression was given; and, whereas, the new books, both the English and the German, have now been before the brotherhood for some time, and have



given general satisfaction; therefore, resolved, that this Annual Meeting give the new books its sanction, and liberty to all the members of the churches to use them.

Art. 19. Resolved, that the request of John Dennis and his brethren, of the State of Maine, in regard to a ministering brother being sent to them, to preach the gospel and make known to them the order of the brethren, should not be slighted, but prayerfully considered by the Annual Meeting, and measures adopted to carry the same into effect.

Answer: We think the minutes of 1860 and 1868 give the church ample liberty to make arrangements to meet the case above alluded to; we therefore refer the subject to the district-meeting from which it came.

Art. 20. We desire the Annual Meeting to correct the minutes of last year, Art. 5, so as to read: "Is it right for a brother to swear his life against a man for any cause," instead of, "Swear his life against a brother."

Answer: We adopt the correction.

Art. 21. Will this meeting allow brethren, and especially ministering brethren, to engage in the banking business?

Answer: Not advisable for brethren to engage in such business. (See Matt. 6: 3.)

Art. 22. We desire the Annual Meeting to reconsider Art. 3, of the minutes of 1844, and if the present answer may be adopted, then what shall be done with a brother who violates the decision? The query above alluded to, with the answer, are as follows: "Whether a brother may go to the legislative assembly, as a representative of the people, agreeably with the gospel?"

"Considered, that though we look upon the higher powers of the world as being of God, for the protection of the pious, etc., and desire to be thankful to God for the benefit we enjoy under our government, and feel it our duty to pray fervently and daily for the same, we can not see how a follower of the meek and lowly Savior can seek and accept an office of this kind consistently with the gospel which he professeth. (See Matt. 20: 25-28; Mark 10: 42-46; Luke 22: 25; John 17: 16, etc.)" The query was reconsidered, and the following answer given by this meeting: Answer: We readopt the answer to the minutes alluded to, and consider that any brother who suffers himself to be elected to such office as that named, and to serve in it, can not be retained as a member of the church.

Art. 23. Which is the most in accordance with the gospel,



and example of Jesus and his disciples, to close our love-feasts in the evening with singing or with prayer?

Answer: This meeting thinks singing last is most in accordance with the gospel.

Art. 24. Requests for committees to visit churches, to settle difficulties, and which were granted: 1. A committee to the Shanesville Church, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, John P. Ebersole, Samuel Mohler, and Daniel Brower. 2. For the Donnel's Creek Church, Clarke County, Ohio, John Wise, John Metzger, Joseph Hendricks, Hiel Hamilton, and R. H. Miller. 3. For the Beaver Dam Church, Frederick County, Maryland, Moses Miller, Daniel Keller, and Jacob Price. 4. For the Beaver Creek Church, Washington County, Maryland, D. P. Sayler, Jacob Price, and Joseph Rohrer. 5. For the Spring River Church, Jasper County, Missouri; also, for the Cedar Creek Church, Cedar County, Missouri, and perhaps for other churches, William Gish, Christian Holler, Isaac Harshey, John Harshey, and Enoch Eby. 6. For the Salem Church, Montgomery County, Ohio, Samuel Mohler, Isaac Miller, and Samuel Garber. 7. For the church on the north branch of the Wild Cat, Indiana, H. D. Davy, John Wise, and Joseph McCarty. 8. For the Chique's Creek Church, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and the Indian Creek Church, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, D. P. Sayler, Joseph Hanawalt, J. G. Gluck, Daniel Keller, and Samuel Lehman. 9. For the Chippeway Church, Wayne County, Ohio, Joseph Rittenhouse, Jacob Garver, Conrod Kayler. 10. For the St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph County, Indiana; Bloomington Church, Michigan; Elkhart Valley Church, Indiana; Solomon's Creek Church, Indiana; Antioch Church, Indiana; and the Salamony Church, Indiana, D. P. Sayler, J. Wise, H. D. Davy, C. Long, B. F. Moomaw, J. Quinter, and Daniel Brower. 11. For Hurricane Church, Bond County, Illinois, Joseph Hendricks, David Wolf, Daniel Nehr. 12. For the Silver Creek Church, Ogle County, Illinois, John Metzger, Enoch Eby, and Samuel Lehman. 13. For the Owl Creek Church, Knox County, Ohio, Samuel Mohler, James Quinter, David Long, A. Flory, and Daniel Brower. 14. For Fall Creek Church, Highland County, Ohio, H. D. Davy, J. Quinter, and J. Franec.

Art. 25., Requests for the Annual Meeting: 1. The Elk Lick congregation, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, renews its application for the Annual Meeting in 1873. 2. A request for the Annual Meeting in southern Illinois in 1874.

As there was but one request for the Annual Meeting in 1873,



that from Somerset County, Pennsylvania, the Annual Meeting of 1873 will be held, the Lord willing, at the usual time, commencing on the first Tuesday after Whitsunday, with the brethren of the Elk Lick Church, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. All the needful information concerning the place, etc., will be given in due time.

The following brethren were appointed to correspond with the railroad companies, to obtain half-fare rates for going to the meeting: John Beeghly, of Illinois, G. Whitwer, of Missouri, and Jesse Calvert, of Indiana, for the railroad west of Pittsburg; and H. R. Holsinger for the Pittsburg, Baltimore and Washington railroad.

After singing, exhortation, and prayer, the meeting adjourned.

Standing committee and officers: H. D. Davy, Jacob Garver, John Brown, D. B. Sturgis, Jacob Metzger, R. H. Miller, Samuel Lehman, John Metzger, E. K. Beeghly, Christian Long, Daniel Zook, William Gish, Samuel Mohler, A. Malsbee, Ab. Naff, Solomon Garber, Martin Cosner, D. Long, D. P. Sayler, Jacob Riner, Jos. Hanawalt, J. Wise, and J. Quinter.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1873.

Meyersdale, Pa.

On Monday, June 2d, the standing committee met and organized, and prepared a considerable amount of business for the General Council.

On Tuesday morning the general council-meeting was opened in the ordinary manner by devotional exercises, and the reading of the fifteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles.

The following queries were presented by the delegates from the several districts, and were considered in the fear of the Lord and were decided as herein stated:

Article 1. Is it consistent for brethren to have their lives insured? and how shall we proceed with those brethren who have their lives insured?

Answer: It is inconsistent for brethren to do so.

Art. 2. What Scripture shall we name as an answer to the following question: How shall those officers among us be installed, whose duty it is to serve tables and to attend to the wants and necessities of the poor members?

Answer: Inasmuch as it is not certain that the seven persons on whom hands were laid (Acts 6: 6) are to perform the pre-



cise work that our visiting brethren are to do, and if they were not then the manner of installation may differ, and the manner of installing our visiting brethren may be sought for in the general principles of the gospel, and not in any one passage, and so the answer of our brethren may be given.

Art. 3. Is it not sufficient, and according to the gospel, to ask the candidate for baptism, while in the water, the only question, Dost thou believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? instead of using the words of the formula, found in the minutes of 1858, Art 41?

Answer: We think one question is not sufficient, and therefore make no change in our present practice.

Art. 4. Whereas, there is a difference of practice among the brethren, in proceeding with members who trespass in congregations in which they have not their membership, some trying the case in the congregation where the trespass was committed, while others would try it in the congregation where they live. Will not this meeting say where the offense shall be tried, and thereby establish a uniform practice in the brotherhood?

Answer: The offender should be tried in the congregation in which the offense was committed.

Art. 5. Is it right to gather or boil sugar-water on the Sabbath or Lord's-day?

Answer: It is not right to do so.

Art. 6. We request district-meetings and the Annual Meeting to decide that no report of the proceedings of our Annual Meetings, further than that the queries and answers thereto, be published.

Answer: We decide that a synopsis of the reasons given as a basis for decision, may be given, but no names of speakers be used, and that the publishers shall be responsible to the Annual Meeting for their report.

Art. 7. Whereas, the "Christian Family Companion" and "Pilgrim" have published articles with reference to decisions of questions of Annual Meetings, differing from the sentiment contained in said decisions; and, also, communications from others, even from those who are not members of the church, and even from expelled members, reflecting seriously upon the character of the Annual Meeting; therefore, resolved, that the editors of said periodicals be required to make acknowledgment of their offense, and to promise to be more guarded in the future in this respect.



The acknowledgment was made, and the promise given.

Art. 8. Whereas, Bro. H. R. Holsinger has committed great offense to the brethren at our present Annual Meeting by pursuing the course he has. When complaints had been presented from various places or districts in the brotherhood of the language he used in his paper, and when a humble and meek explanation was expected by the brethren, he, before the whole congregation, made assertions and insinuations which grieved the brethren more than his previous offenses, and to the dishonor of the brotherhood. 1. The spirit that he, as a minister of the gospel, manifested, we consider altogether contrary to the gospel, and the profession and character of our brotherhood. 2. He declared that a brother, and the connection in which he made the remark showed that it was a brother of some eminence, would suppress the printing of the Bible. With no testimony before him warranting him to make such a declaration, we consider the charge a dishonor to the brotherhood. 3. In speaking against a brother, in warm and strong language, and in alluding to the business that had been done in the morning, which business pertained to a point which had given the brethren much trouble, but which was apparently settled quite as satisfactorily as could have been expected, and when we felt pleasantly over it, he said, alluding especially to the elders, "They were asked to give the words of the Lord, and refused to do so." We consider this remark, in the connection in which it was used, injurious to the influence of the elders. 4. In saying that one of the brethren used sophistry in his speech, we consider a greater violation of Christian courtesy and brotherly love. 5. In declaring that he would never submit to a certain restraint that was under consideration, he plainly showed a spirit of disobedience and insubordination to the church. The offenses alluded to in the foregoing were by no means confined to the elders or standing committee, but they were very extensive in the congregation. The impropriety of the unchristian course pursued, grieved a large number of members, as their strong feelings, expressed after the meeting closed, plainly indicated. Now, in view of the foregoing considerations, we require a very humble acknowledgment of Bro. H. R. Holsinger, for his offenses, and an assurance that his course in the future shall be more respectful to the church and elders, and more in accordance with the meekness and brotherly love inculcated in the gospel.

An acknowledgment was made and the assurance given.



Art. 9. Is it according to the gospel, or is it conforming to the world, when brethren subscribe for railroad stock?

Answer: We know of no direct Scripture forbidding it; but inasmuch as it brings us into associations in which we are liable to violate our Christian principles, we would advise brethren not to engage in it.

Art. 10. Is it according to the Scripture, and the order of the brotherhood, to have two or more housekeepers in the same church, at the same time?

Answer: It is in accordance with the order of the brotherhood, and also in accordance with the spirit of the gospel. (See Titus 1: 5; 2 Tim. 2: 2.)

Art. 11. As the Annual Meeting has given the liberty to hold Sabbath-schools, if held according to the gospel, this district-meeting thinks the Annual Meeting should give the order for holding Sabbath-schools.

Answer: This query is answered in, or designed to be answered in, the answer to Art. 14, of the minutes of 1868. And in addition to said answer, we would say that our Sabbath-schools should be held, as all our meetings should be held, to the glory of God. (1 Cor. 10: 31.) And as the object of our Sabbath-school is to teach children Christianity, Sabbath-school teachers should observe the directions given by Paul to parents, in which he admonishes us to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Eph. 6: 4.

Art. 12. This district-meeting requests the Annual Meeting of 1873 to reconsider Art. 15, of the minutes of 1868, touching the propriety of brethren going on stands to preach.

Answer: Let this matter rest as it now is.

Art. 13. This district-meeting requests the Annual Meeting to reconsider Art. 19, of the minutes of 1858, concerning the manner of advancing brethren in the ministry, from the first to the second degree.

Answer: We consider the order given in Art. 19, of the minutes of 1858, the proper order.

Art. 14. When churches or individuals call for committees, shall the party calling for the committee pay the expenses of said committee, or shall the committee say which party shall pay the expenses?

Answer: We think the committee shall say who shall pay the expenses.



Art. 15. Is it agreeable with the gospel, or the old order of the brethren, for members to have musical instruments in their houses, such as organs or a fiddle, for their amusement, or for the amusement of the young people, and to play on them on the Lord's-day, after they return from worship?

Answer: We think it unauthorized by the gospel, and clearly opposed to the order of the old brethren, and the doctrine of self-denial, and not calculated to promote vital Christianity.

Art. 16. Will this district-meeting petition the Annual Meeting to grant the right to districts, at their meetings, to appoint, if necessary, committees to investigate and settle difficulties that may exist within the bounds of the district, and such selections to be made of brethren residing within the limits of the district in which such difficulties may exist except in cases in which a majority of the churches composing a district are involved?

Answer: We think it best to make no change from our present practice in selecting committees.

Art. 17. Since the district-meeting of middle Indiana, last year, had under consideration the orphan's home, or a home for orphan children, and expressed itself favorable, but laid it over for further consideration, will not this meeting take into consideration the propriety of erecting a home for orphan children, and members who are a church charge?

Answer: This Annual Meeting does not see the propriety of adopting such measures at present, but if the middle district of Indiana desires to do so, we will not oppose it.

Art. 18. Is it right to put a brother into the office to serve as deacon or minister that does not conform to the order of the church, or allow them to serve in any church business at district or Yearly Meetings? And would it not be best for brethren that officiate where an election is going on to instruct the church not to give their voice to any that do not conform to the order of the church?

Answer: We advise brethren to be very careful in giving the brethren power or office who will not conform to the order.

Art. 19. What is to be done in case one of the members of the church pleads guilty to the act of fornication, is it the duty of the housekeeper of said church to take the voice of every member present, whether such an one is only to be excommunicated or put in avoidance, or is it the duty for such housekeeper to pass such a member into avoidance at once, according to 1 Cor. 5?



Answer: We consider that an elder has no right to either expel a member from the church, or to put him in avoidance, without the counsel of the church.

Art. 20. Do the brethren not think it proper to exert their influence against the admission into the church of the new hymn-book with notes?

Answer: We advise all districts of churches to keep them out of the church in public worship.

Art. 21. Inasmuch as oftentimes the innocent party must call for a committee and bear all expenses, would it not be more just for the committee to decide who is to pay the expenses?

Answer: We think the committee is to decide.

Art. 22. A man who was living in adultery, after making a full statement of his standing to the brethren, was received into the church and afterward received a letter of full membership from said church and moved into another district of the church, and this church rejected him by the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1850, Art. 12; would it be according to the gospel, and decisions of the Annual Meeting, for the brethren that received him into the church to make acknowledgment to the man also, or only to the church?

Answer: We consider that the brethren who received him should make acknowledgment to the church, and also to the man, if he shall ask it, and give him a reason for receiving him.

Art. 23. Inasmuch as Art. 11, of 1872, is not heeded, will not the Annual Meeting devise some plan to have it enforced throughout the whole brotherhood?

Answer: In case a church permits its members to take illegal interest in opposition to the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1872, Art. 11, the aggrieved members may apply to the Annual Meeting for a committee.

Art. 24. Inasmuch as there are constant additions to the church and to the ministry of young brethren who are desirous to learn the proceedings of our Annual Meetings, would it not be advisable to publish, in pamphlet form, all the minutes of Annual Meeting since the last date of those contained in the Encyclopedia, including also those not published in this Encyclopedia, previous to said date, and have said pamphlet arranged so as to admit subsequent minutes?

Answer: We think it best to defer this question.



Art. 25. Is it right for the brethren to solemnize marriages in cases where parties are divorced and second parties yet living?

Answer: No.

Art. 26. Inasmuch as there are differences of opinion among the brethren as to the nature of offenses that should be settled between the parties immediately concerned, or that may be brought directly to the church, it is desired that this meeting define this subject more clearly, so as to bring about more unanimity of opinion and action.

Answer: All offenses that are strictly against a brother or sister should be settled according to Matt. 18, but such as are of a general nature, affecting the whole body, said body must be concerned in settling of its own accounts. In case a brother neglects or refuses to go according to Matt. 18, then the church should send brethren to investigate, and report to the church as directed in Matt. 18.

Art. 27. Is it according to the gospel for council districts to select brethren from among their ministers and send them to preach the gospel in places where there are no ministering brethren, and where people desire the brethren to preach, and to pay the traveling expenses of such brethren?

Answer: It is according to the gospel, and the decisions of the Annual Meeting. (See Minutes of 1868, Art. 21.)

Art. 28. Requests for committees to visit churches to settle difficulties, and which were granted: 1. Inasmuch as the elder of the Spring Creek Church, in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, called for assistance to settle difficulties in said church, we grant them the following committee: D. Gerlach, C. Bombarger, and Samuel Harley, of Ephrata. 2. A request from the Upper Deer Creek Church, Cass County, Indiana. The request was granted, and the following brethren were selected: Joseph McCarty, John E. Shively, and Gotlieb Keller. 3. A request for a committee to go to Indian Creek Church, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed: Moses Miller, D. P. Sayler, Daniel Keller, J. G. Glock, and Jacob Price. 4. A committee to Salamony and Antioch churches, Huntington County, Indiana, consisting of H. D. Davy, Daniel Brower, and John Wise. 5. A request for a committee to go to Astoria Church, Fulton County, Illinois. The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy, R. H. Miller, John Metzger, and E. Eby. 6. A request from the Yellow Creek Church, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. Request



granted, and the following brethren were appointed: Isaac Myers, Jacob Price, and J. G. Glock. 7. A request from the Black River congregation, Van Buren County, Michigan, for a committee. The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed: Jacob Berkey, H. D. Davy, and D. B. Sturgis. 8. A request from the Waterloo Church to settle difficulties. The request was granted, and the following brethren were appointed: Henry Strickler, Peter Forney, A. Stamy, and Thomas Snyder.

Art. 29. The request for the Annual Meeting in southern Illinois, in 1874, was renewed and granted. Consequently the next Annual Meeting, the Lord willing, will be held in Macoupin County, Illinois, at the house of Bro. Joseph Filbrun, on the railroad from Chicago to Springfield and St. Louis, and between Virden and Girard.

The following brethren were appointed to correspond with the railroad companies to obtain half-fare rates for going to the meeting: Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, D. P. Sayler; Pittsburg, Ft. Wayne & Chicago, and Pittsburg, Cincinnati & St. Louis Railroad, H. D. Davy; Ohio & Mississippi, John Beeghly; Chesapeake & Ohio, J. S. Flory; Pennsylvania Central, H. R. Holsinger. Further information will be given in due time.

A resolution was passed, thanking the railroad companies that had granted excursion rates to persons attending the meeting. After singing, exhortation, and prayer, the meeting closed.

Standing committee and officers: Henry Garst, B. F. Moomaw, S. Garver, M. Cossner, D. P. Sayler, D. Long, David Gerlach, Jacob Price, John Wise, H. D. Davy, John Brillhart, Jacob Garver, D. B. Sturgis, John Baker, Joseph McCarty, E. Eby, John Metzger, Henry Strickler, R. Badger, C. Harader, and J. Quinter.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1874.

Macoupin County, Ill.

The standing committee met on Monday and organized. On Tuesday morning the meeting was opened in the usual manner, by devotional exercises, and the reading of the fifteenth chapter of Acts. The delegates then, from the different districts, as they were called, presented the queries committed to them, and they were considered in the fear of the Lord, and answered as herein stated:

Article 1. As Art. 6, of the Annual Meeting of 1873, allows only the publishing of a "synopsis of the reasons given as a basis



for decision, but no names of speakers," will not this Annual Meeting allow the publishing of a full report of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting, together with the names of the speakers?

Answer: We make no change.

Art. 2. Inasmuch as the public mind is awakened on the subject of peace, both among nations and societies, should not the church at large take notice of "the signs of the times," and teach more earnestly at this time this cardinal doctrine of Christ and the church?

Answer: We think the church should do so.

Art. 3. The eastern district of Maryland humbly asks the Annual Meeting to pass Art. 24, of the minutes of 1873, and appoint a committee to attend to said business.

Answer: The request is granted.

Art. 4. A brother, holding the office of a deacon in the church, and is nominated for the office of county commissioner, and accepts of the nomination, the church then takes his office from him. Does the coming district and Annual Meetings decide and determine that the gospel also demands and requires that the church deprive the brother from the privilege of communing, or in other words, of partaking of the emblems of the broken body of the Lord? If so, let the gospel authority be produced.

Answer: The church is justified, according to the gospel, and the order of the brethren, in prohibiting such a brother from the communion; and any brother who will contend publicly or privately, that it is not wrong for a Christian to hold the office of county commissioner should be admonished in love to do so no more, and if he does, the church should deal with him according to Matt. 18. (See Romans 16: 7, 18; 2 Thess. 3: 14, 15; Matt. 6: 24; Brethren's Encyclopedia, page 23; Minutes of 1778 and 1779; and first page, Minutes of 1797; also page 110, Minutes of 1822, Art. 6; also Minutes of 1861, Art. 3.)

Art. 5. Since is it fashionable for the world to wear the mustache, the brethren are adopting it and claim for it liberty of conscience, saying that it is good for the eyes, are brethren compelled to salute such if they can not do it without doing violence to their conscience?

Answer: Brethren should never wear a mustache only, or fashionable beard, according to the fashion of the world; and if they do, they will fall into the council of the church.

Art. 6. Inasmuch as the answer to Art. 21, of the minutes



of 1872, in reference to brethren engaging in the banking business is considered indefinite, and as some take advantage of this circumstance and do engage in the business, will not this district-meeting request the Annual Meeting to reconsider said query, and give a more positive answer? We agree to ask the Annual Meeting for a reconsideration of said query.

Answer: We, according to the above request, are willing to reconsider the query alluded to; but we do not see our way clear to make any decision more positive than we have already made. But we would admonish brethren to be very careful in engaging in all kinds of business, and especially in business done by incorporated bodies, such as railroad and banking companies, since by so doing they may be brought into dangerous associations with ungodly men.

Art. 7. This district-meeting petitions the Annual Meeting to grant to district-meetings the privilege of sending to the Annual Meeting queries and petitions that may originate during their sessions.

Answer: Considered best not to grant the right to do so.

Art. 8. Would it not be proper for the Annual Meeting to adopt a form, to be used by the elders installing a brother into the first and second degrees of the ministry, so that all ministers would be installed in office by a uniform charge, as is done in regard to installing deacons? Art. 4, in the minutes of 1835.

Answer: The elder installing a brother into the first degree of the ministry, should give the following charge: "The duties of the brother elected, while in the first degree of the ministry, are not very onerous. The church authorizes him to exhort and to preach as an assistant to the elder and older ministers, as they may give him liberty to do. It is his duty, however, faithfully to attend the meetings of the church, and when liberty is given, to exhort or preach, and do it humbly, and willingly, and faithfully, as the Lord will afford him grace to do. But should it happen that none of the older ministering brethren should come to the regular appointment, then it will be his duty, and he is hereby authorized, to conduct the meeting according to the usual order of the brethren, to the best of his ability, and to announce the regular appointments; but he has no authority to make or announce any appointments on his own or private account. In case, however, he is called to preach on a funeral occasion, he is at liberty, and is hereby authorized, to go and conduct the services according to the usual order of the brethren. And it is thought good that the elder and older ministering brethren should be liberal in giving him liberty to preach, and not always confine him to the closing services, or he may not soon learn how to be a 'workman approved of God, that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.'" The brother's name should now be announced, and he



should be called to come forward, and asked, before all, to promise to conform to the general order of the brotherhood in dress and all matters of non-conformity to the world, whether he accepts the position into which the church proposes to place him, and whether he will so submit himself; and if he answers in the affirmative, the brethren will receive him with the right hand of fellowship and kiss of charity, and the sisters with the right hand of fellowship only. And to advance a brother into the second degree of the ministry, the elder giving the charge, may say: "Dear brother [calling his name], the church having called you into the first degree of the ministry, and on trial has confidence in your fidelity and integrity, now proposes to advance you into the second degree, and thereby your labors will be increased and your duties will become more onerous, and will require a greater sacrifice on your part. The church now authorizes you to appoint meetings for preaching, according to the general order of the brethren, to administer the ordinance of baptism, and, in the absence of an elder, to take the counsel of the church on the admission of an applicant for baptism, to serve the communion in the absence of an elder, or at his or their request, if present, to solemnize the rite of marriage according to the laws of the state and the usages of the church. In brief, to perform all the duties of an ordained elder, excepting you have no authority to install officers in the church, neither by giving a charge, as I am now doing, nor by laying on hands in ordaining a brother into the full degree of the ministry. You have also no authority to preside in the council-meetings of the church in which official members of the church are to be dealt with. You have no authority to go into the acknowledged territory of any organized church to make appointments for preaching, unless called by the elder or council of said church. It is an assumption of authority for an ordained elder to do so. But let it be understood that while the church now invests you with these rights and privileges, she still holds you to the apostolic injunction: 'Ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder; yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble' (1 Peter 5: 5), and will hold you amenable to her councils; and if you manifest an arbitrary self-will and domineering spirit, the same authority which now gives you these privileges, will, if need requires it, suspend you, and take from you all the authority she now gives you." The brother should rise on his feet, and be asked to promise to conform to the general order of the brotherhood in dress and all matters of non-conformity to the world, and whether he accepts this position, and whether he will submit himself; and if he answers in the affirmative, the church should again receive him, as at first, with hand and kiss.

Art. 9. Is it wrong for brethren to organize a class for singing purposes, and have it taught in their meeting-houses, if it is done in good order?

Answer: It is not wrong, if the church is willing.

Art. 10. Inasmuch as the brethren, when assembled in An-



nual Council in the year 1831, decided it not to be advisable for a brother to have his son educated in a college; "inasmuch," they say, "as experience has taught us that such very seldom will come back afterward to the humble ways of the Lord," what will this district-meeting and our Annual Meeting say when a combination of brethren are trying to get up a high school for the more thorough education of the brethren's children, and term it the "Brethren's School"?

Answer: Referred to the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1858, Art. 51. But the brethren shall not call the school the "Brethren's School," or by any other name that would involve the general brotherhood.

Art. 11. Will the Annual Meeting state what relations are meant by "nearest relations," in the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1838, Art. 8?

Answer: By "nearest relations," is meant father and mother, brother and sister, son and daughter, and husband or wife of the accused.

Art. 12. Would it not be better, and nearer the gospel and our profession, to have no stand and platform elevated at the place of holding our Annual Meeting, for the committee brethren and others of the meeting to sit and stand upon during the time of council?

Answer: It is best to have no stand or platform in the Annual Council.

Art. 13. The district-meeting of the middle district of Iowa, does sincerely ask the Annual Meeting of 1874 to prayerfully consider the propriety of making a change in the manner of holding our Annual Meeting.

Answer: We do not consider it necessary to make any further change from the plan adopted by the Annual Meeting of 1868, than what has been already made; but we are deeply impressed, from our experience with the present meeting, of the propriety of adhering strictly to the order established at the Annual Meeting above referred to, and we urge upon the churches holding the Annual Meeting, to hold it according to the order alluded to. And we want it further understood, that there shall be no provisions made for boarding at the meeting until Monday, the day before the commencement of the council.

Art. 14. Inasmuch as many brethren and sisters are aggrieved at the statements made by Bro. D. P. Sayler, in the "Gospel Visitor," Vol. 22, No. 10, page 293, first column, commencing eighteen lines from the top, should he not make a public acknowledgment?



Answer: As Bro. Sayler's views of the passage of Scripture, in relation to which the objectionable sentiments were advanced, was given as his individual sentiment, and not the sentiment of the brotherhood; and as the church has not expressed its view of the passage, we think it premature to ask him to make public satisfaction.

Art. 15. Will this district-meeting ask the Annual Meeting to decide that when a committee is sent by the Annual Meeting into any district to settle difficulties, and elders or other members are involved, more or less, in the trouble to be settled, and who live in adjoining or other districts, that it may have the right to call such into the district into which the committee is called, and there settle the difficulties of those called? Or, should the committee go into the district and there hear and decide the case, that a final settlement of the trouble may be effected?

Answer: All committees may have the power asked for in the query, to call for such persons as are alluded to.

Art. 16. Inasmuch as the Savior says, "In secret have I said nothing," will the Annual Meeting decide that the churches may ask the applicant for baptism all the questions in the presence of the whole congregation?

Answer: We think it best to make no general change from the order given in the minutes of 1848; neither do we think it necessary to make any change to meet the case of the question, since in the order of 1848, above alluded to, it is not said whether the questions shall be put publicly or privately, and so in particular cases it may be done publicly. But when there is no necessity of doing otherwise, let the questions, after the examination, be put to the candidate before the church alone, as is the general practice of the brotherhood.

Art. 17. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting is favorable to the holding of protracted meetings, what right have the bishops and householders of certain districts of churches to limit such meetings to a series not exceeding three in number?

Answer: They have the right, if the meetings are not conducted in the order of the gospel and of the church.

Art. 18. Since the Macedonian call is heard from many places over the land, and as the gospel says, "go," and as the Annual Meeting of 1868 has formed a plan, will not this Annual Meeting of 1874 perfect the plan and carry it into effect?

Answer: We can not see how we can make a more perfect plan than the one referred to in the query, but we request the churches having such calls to make arrangements to carry out said plan.



Art. 19. Will not this district-meeting petition the Annual Meeting of 1874 to reconsider Art. 4, of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1873?

Answer: Yes, and have the answer to read as follows: "A member should be tried in the church where his membership is, except where a member commits an offense in his church and changes his membership before it is settled; he shall then go back to the church he left and be tried there." Confirmed by the Annual Meeting upon a reconsideration of the query.

Art. 20. If a church is dissatisfied with members that go to Sunday-school conventions, and pass a decision that members shall not go to such places, and if they do go, that they must make an acknowledgment for the same, can the church enforce such decision without the sanction of the Annual Meeting?

Answer: We think it has the power.

Art. 21. As there is not a uniformity of practice among the brethren in reference to saluting our colored members, will not the brethren in Annual Council give us a decision that will enable us to be one in practice, and not respecters of persons?

Answer: We think it best to make no change in this matter.

Art. 22. Is it consistent with the gospel, or the order of the brethren, to join the farmer's club, and even act as officers in the same?

Answer: Not consistent with the gospel to unite with any organized body of the world, and any member that will not abandon it, after being admonished so to do, shall be dealt with according to Matt. 18.

Art. 23. Will this Annual Meeting purchase the tent now in use by the brotherhood in holding the present meeting?

Answer: Considered not advisable to do so.

Art. 24. Would it be right to grant an expelled preacher, who violated the counsel of the church, and still goes on preaching, a committee, when all the members are opposed to a committee, and if the church would grant a committee, under existing circumstances, and such a preacher would be found guilty, would it be right for said brethren and sisters to pay the expenses?

Answer: No, and such preacher shall be required to provide a sufficient amount to pay such expenses before a committee serve.

Art. 25. Whereas, the Annual Meeting of 1873, Art. 20, advises all the churches to keep the brethren's tune and hymn-book out



of the churches in time of public worship, this district-council humbly asks the Annual Meeting of 1874 to reconsider the said query, and allow district churches, that wish to do so, to use them even in public worship.

Answer: This Annual Meeting thinks it best, upon the reconsideration of said query, to let this subject remain as it was decided at the last Annual Meeting.

Art. 26. Inasmuch as the use of musical instruments among us has caused considerable trouble, and as decisions of Annual Meeting are differently construed, will this Annual Meeting, therefore, give us such a decision that will fully authorize the different branches of the church to keep them out of the brotherhood, and get those out that are already among us?

Answer: The decision of the last Annual Meeting upon the subject of musical instruments is readopted.

Art. 27. We desire the reconsideration of Art. 14, of the last Annual Meeting. The query was, whether the committee should not have the right to say who should pay the expenses of called committees, the one that called them, or the church in which the difficulty existed; and it was decided that the committee should have that authority.

Answer: We reaffirm the decision of the Annual Meeting of last year in the reconsideration of said query.

Call for committees: 1. A request for a committee to visit the White Oak Church, Brush Creek Church, Clear Creek Church, and Fall Creek Church, in Highland and Adams counties, Ohio. The following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy, Samuel Mohler, J. Wise, R. H. Miller, and D. Brower. 2. Request for a committee to visit the Newton Church in Miami County, Ohio. The following committee were appointed: R. H. Miller, J. Wise, D. Brower, Jos. N. Kauffman, and Daniel Bowman. 3. Request for a committee to visit the church in Botetourt County, Virginia. The following brethren were appointed: D. P. Sayler, H. D. Davy, D. Long, C. G. Lint, and M. Miller. 4. Request for a committee to visit the Washington Creek Church, Douglass County, Kansas. The following brethren were appointed: John Hershey, John Forney, and Jesse Studebaker. 5. Request for a committee to visit the Deer Creek Church, Indiana. The following brethren were appointed: R. H. Miller, Jesse Meyers, and Jacob Berkey. 6. Request for a committee to visit the North Manchester Church, Indiana. The following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy,



R. H. Miller, John Wise, D. Brower, and D. B. Sturgis. 7. The following brethren form the committee sent to California: H. D. Davy, D. P. Sayler, and B. F. Moomaw. 8. The following brethren form the committee to publish the minutes: H. D. Davy and J. Quinter. 9. Request for a committee to go to St. Joseph County, Indiana. The following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy, R. H. Miller, and J. Metzger. 10. Request for a committee to visit the Vermilion Church, in Livingston County, Illinois. The following brethren were appointed: Jos. Hendricks, Enoch Eby, and D. Fry. 11. Request for a committee to visit the Indian Creek Church, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The following brethren were appointed: H. D. Davy, D. Long, D. Keller, D. Garlach, and C. G. Lint.

The following is the quota of each state district to defray the expenses of the committee to California: Tennessee, \$15; Virginia, first district, \$30, second district, \$45, third district, \$25; Maryland, eastern district, \$30, western district, \$30; Pennsylvania, eastern district, \$40, middle district, \$35, western district, \$40; Ohio, northeastern district, \$40, northwestern district, \$30, southwestern district, \$50; Indiana, northern district, \$40, middle district, \$40, southern district, \$40; Illinois, northern district, \$10, southern district, \$5; Missouri, northern district, \$5, southern district, \$10; Nebraska, \$5; Kansas, \$5; Michigan, \$5. The collections in Pennsylvania and Maryland will be remitted to D. P. Sayler; those in Virginia and Tennessee to B. F. Moomaw; those in the western states to H. D. Davy. The money should be collected and remitted by the first of September.

Request for the Annual Meeting: There being no request for the Annual Meeting in 1875, and there being a request from the Miami Valley Ohio, for the meeting in 1876, it is expected that the next Annual Meeting will be in the Miami Valley, Ohio. The announcement will be made in due time.

The meeting closed by singing and prayer, the impression prevailing that we had a pleasant meeting, and that the Lord was with us.

Standing committee and officers: Henry Swadley, B. F. Moomaw, Martin Costner, D. P. Sayler, D. Long, D. Garlach, J. Meyers, J. Quinter, Jacob Garver, J. P. Ebersole, H. D. Davy, J. Lichty, George Long, D. B. Sturgis, Jacob Flory, R. H. Miller, D. Rittenhouse, Rufus Gish, David Wolf, E. K. Beeghly, C. Long, C. Harader, G. Witwer, J. Hershey, Jesse Studebaker, Enoch Eby.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1875.

Covington, Ohio.

On Monday, May 17th, the standing committee met and organized, by appointing H. D. Davy moderator, J. Quinter writing clerk, Enoch Eby, reading clerk, and J. W. Brumbaugh, doorkeeper.

On Tuesday morning the public council was opened by devotional exercises, and the reading of the fifteenth chapter of Acts.

The following queries were then presented and acted upon with results as stated:

Article 1. Should there not be some change made in the manner of holding our Annual Meetings?

Answer: With regard to the expense of the meeting, we suggest, that as the rule with us is that the said meeting be held alternately east and west of the Ohio River, that, therefore, the expenses of the said Annual Meeting be defrayed by the respective divisions where held, upon some equitable mode, the congregation in which the meeting is held not to be required to contribute to said expense in money, the trouble incident to such a meeting to be considered their full portion of contribution.

The Annual Meeting, instead of adopting the above answer from the district-meeting, gave the following: We think it best to make no such change as asked for in the query at present.

Art. 2. Is it according to the gospel for brethren to make a pool in a meeting-house, for the purpose of baptizing?

Answer: As we have no authority in the Scripture for baptizing in the house, we consider it wrong to do so.

Art. 3. Is it considered according to the gospel for a church, at communion, to use the unfermented juice of grapes in place of wine?

Answer: We think it may be left optional to a church to do so, if the members are agreed.

Art. 4. This congregation petitions the district-meeting to petition the Annual Meeting, and proposes the following plan: Let each district-meeting send one delegate to form the standing committee, and each church to have the privilege of sending one or two delegates as a home representation, and these, in connection with the standing committee, to form the official body for the transaction of all business presented to the meeting for action.



Answer: We think it best not to make the proposed change.

Art. 5. Is it right for the standing committee to change the import of any query addressed to the Annual Meeting?

Answer: It is not right to do so.

Art. 6. When members, who are dependent on the church, move from one state to another, expecting to be maintained by their children, and fail, which church's duty is it to maintain them?

Answer: This meeting thinks it is the duty of the church from which they moved to maintain them.

Art. 7. Whereas, the Annual Meeting of 1874, as per Art. 8, gave the charges as given to ministers in the first and second degrees, will not this district-meeting ask the Annual Meeting to give, also, the charges and duties as given to ordain elders and deacons, and have the charges of 1874 reprinted with these, so that all the officers may have their duties set forth by the Annual Meeting, as understood by the church from the Scriptures?

Answer: Deferred until next Annual Meeting.

Art. 8. Inasmuch as there are queries before this meeting, both in favor of and against a full report of the proceedings of this meeting, and as there seems to be a difficulty in answering these questions with the unanimity desirable, we think it best to defer the subject until the next Annual Meeting.

Art. 9. Is it right for a brother to hold office of postmaster?

Answer: We know of no reason why he should not.

Art. 10. Should not the delegate accompanying the member of the standing committee from each district, be admitted in with the standing committee of the Annual Meeting, during the examination of the business from the district which he represents?

Answer: We conclude to make no change at the present.

Art. 11. Are the delegates sent by the district meeting to the Annual Meeting to represent the sentiments of the district which sends them, or have they the privilege to represent their own sentiments?

Answer: They should represent the sentiments of their district.

Art. 12. Whereas, it is not considered to be according to the Scriptures to keep our poor in the county poorhouse, is not the church under obligations to build a house to keep our poor in,



providing the brethren petition the legislature to be exempt from paying our poor tax into the county treasury?

Answer: We refer this back as a matter of purely local interest.

Art. 13. Will this district-meeting ask the Annual Meeting to adopt suitable measures to enable the church to co-operate actively with the peace association of America?

Answer: Our church itself being a peace association, we need not, as a body, co-operate with others, but we may, as individuals, give our influence in favor of peace.

Art. 14. Whereas, there are many committees called for every year, would it not be advisable for the standing committee of the Annual Meeting to be careful, and not to select too many from their own body, as it might appear to some as if they would like to do all the business themselves?

Answer: We advise as Paul does, when he says: "Observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality."

Art. 15. The church of Luney's Creek asks our district to petition the Annual Meeting to change the name of our district from that of the "Third District of Virginia," to that of the "District of West Virginia," so that the publication of our business may be understood without mistake.

Answer: The petition was granted.

Art. 16. Will not this district-meeting petition the Annual Meeting to modify or change a small portion of the answer to Art. 8, of 1874, where it says: "You have no authority to go into acknowledged territory of any organized church to make appointments for preaching, unless called by the elder or council of said church. It is an assumption of authority for an ordained elder to do so," and not limit them; for the Savior says: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16: 15.

Answer: We know of no reason why we should make any change, and therefore make none.

Art. 17. Why is it the custom of the brethren to hold their church council-meetings privately, while they hold their district and Annual Meetings publicly?

Answer: Because the home councils are of private character, according to Matt. 18, while the business of the district and Annual Meetings is of a general character.



Art. 18. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has decided that it is inconsistent for brethren that will not conform to the order of the church to preach, are not the elders neglecting a duty in suffering such to go on, and through their influence whole churches become out of order? And while the Annual Council has also decided that it is the duty of the adjoining elders to set such ministers and churches in order, will not this district-meeting and the Annual Meeting urge the brethren to see that the general order of the brethren is more fully carried out?

Answer: The southern district of Ohio urges the elders to do so, and this Annual Meeting does the same.

Art. 19. How is it considered for district-meetings to publish their proceedings, when the Annual Meeting, in 1866, has distinctly decided that it shall not be done?

Answer: The districts should not publish their proceedings.

Art. 20. Inasmuch as the church has manifested a little of the missionary spirit during last year, in sending brethren to the State of Kentucky, we respectfully petition that brethren be sent to the northern part of Alabama and Tennessee adjoining, to build up and comfort the body of brethren gathered together a few years since under the labors of A. J. Hixson. The number of members was about twenty-five.

Answer: In regard to the petition for brethren to visit and preach in Alabama, we would say, we favor the idea, and appoint the following brethren as a committee to attend to the case: B. F. Moomaw, S. Z. Sharp, and H. Garst.

Art. 21. What is the difference between a minister whose office is taken from him, and one that is silenced? and where shall such take their seats?

Answer: Inasmuch as we fail to comprehend any material difference between the phrase, "his office taken from him," or "one that is silenced," we therefore make no difference; and in either case they shall take their seat with the laity.

Art. 22. Is it right, or according to the gospel, for brethren to have their property insured?

Answer: We can not see that it is wrong to do so, if done in a mutual way. (See Art. 3, Minutes of 1864.)

Art. 23. We request this district and the Annual Meeting to give us a more definite decision on the stand question, so that the brethren may become more united in this long-agitated question. The way matters are now, heaven can not be pleased



with us. While some go upon stands, others stay down. If God's law teaches us to go on stands to preach, why not all go on them? And if it teaches us to stay down, why not all stay down? Let us have the gospel order in this as well as in all other matters. Let God's law be the man of our counsel in all matters.

Answer: We think we can give no more satisfactory answer upon this subject than what we already have in the minutes of our Annual Meeting, especially in that of Art. 23, of the minutes of 1866.

Art. 24. As Christ never published himself, would it not be better for the brethren traveling and preaching not to publish themselves, in stating how many sermons they preached, and how many persons they baptized; as much as to say: "See what I have done?"

Answer: Not advisable to do so.

Art. 25. We request this meeting, and the Annual Meeting, to agree to grant the power to the established districts of the states to choose their committees to settle difficulties, instead of the Annual Meeting, thereby saving expense and much labor in brethren traveling east and west. Sometimes business must also lie over for six or eight months until brethren can get around.

Answer: We can not consistently grant the power asked for, without repealing former decisions of the Annual Meeting.

Art. 26. Is it consistent with the gospel, and the order of the church, for the brethren to take part in the so-called lyceum, debating or declaiming society, or for ministering brethren to act as president, and thereby entice other members into the evil?

Answer: We think it is unbecoming a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ to do so; and we would, therefore, most earnestly admonish our brethren to abstain from it. But should any of our brethren persist in taking part in such societies, they should be dealt with as other offenders, according to Matt. 18. (See Rom. 1: 29; 1 Cor. 13: 20; 1 Tim. 6: 58; see, also, decisions of Annual Meetings.)

Art. 27. Since the Annual Meeting has left it optional with brethren whether or not to salute colored brethren with the holy kiss, designing men are making capital of it against us. To obviate this, let the Annual Meeting reconsider that decision, and say that we make no difference on account of race or color; and this district-meeting asks the Annual Meeting to make no difference on account of race or color.

Answer: We grant the request, but should have regard to



the former minutes of Annual Meetings upon the subject, and advise the brethren to bear with one another.

Art. 28. If a member is disowned, and gets a committee to investigate his case, and that committee justifies the church in the course it has taken, has that committee the right to reinstate that member without consulting the church?

Answer: No.

Art. 29. Inasmuch as there exists a strong demand for tracts advocating the faith and practice of the brethren, we earnestly recommend a more united effort to carry forward this work, and facilitate the publication and circulation of works of this character, subject before publication, to the examination and approval of competent and well-established brethren; therefore, we earnestly recommend that the brethren give this matter an earnest and prayerful consideration.

Answer: Approved by order of the district-meeting, and confirmed by this Annual Meeting.

Art. 30. A member, obtaining a letter of membership, moves into another church. Said church, knowing that said member had a certificate of membership, therefore fellowships said member for about one year. Said member willingly neglects to hand in his letter of membership to the church, and during his stay in the said church becomes disobedient, causing much trouble, and moving away in this condition, forfeits his word, disregards the advice and good counsel of the Annual Meeting, and the judgment of said church. Now, has the church from which said member moved last, got the proper authority to disown or disfellowship said member, if he continues disobedient or stubborn in not hearing said church?

Answer: The church from which he obtained his letter should deal with him.

Art. 31. The southern district of Missouri petitions and entreats the Annual Meeting to restrict our editors in publication of matter derogatory to or militating against the advice, counsel, and decision, as given by our beloved brethren, at our Annual Meetings, from time to time, such as advocating high schools, salaried preachers, musical instruments, etc.

Answer: We caution our editors, and all our brethren, from writing or publishing any thing against the acknowledged doctrines of the church.

Art. 32. Is it understood that the decisions of the Annual



Meeting, as heretofore given, against brethren serving as jurors in the courts of our country; apply to serving as grand jurors, whose duty is only to find a bill against the party to be tried in law, or are they to apply only against serving as a petit juror, whose duty is to find a verdict in the trial?

Answer: They are considered to apply to both juries. (See Encyclopedia, pages 122, 123.)

Art. 33. How is it looked at by our fraternity for a minister of ours to preach and debate publicly in favor of the final restoration of all men?

Answer: Brethren should not do so.

Art. 34. Report of the committee to California: We, the undersigned, a committee sent by the Annual Meeting to set in order things that are wanting among the brethren in California, met pursuant to appointment, agreed upon by the elders and brethren residing here, at the house of Bro. Michael Sissler, and after a season of devotion and consultation as to the legality of the proceedings, Bro. George Wolf, with a number of brethren, retired for private consultation. They returning, the voice was taken to decide whether or not the committee is received to investigate the difficulties existing, and they were accepted by a unanimous vote of the members present. We then proceeded as follows:

First: To examine the reasons why certain members did not hand in their letters to the church:

Reason 1st: That a committee of four brethren waited on Elder Wolf, to try to effect a union, and requested him to appoint a church-meeting for that purpose, which he refused to do, but said that if they would agree to hand in their letters, he would call a church-meeting for that purpose (no other), and if they would agree to the subject to the established order of the church in California, and say nothing about settled matters.

It being proved to our satisfaction that there was disorder in the church, and Elder Wolf refusing to call the church together to investigate matters, we decide that he erred in this, and that it was a sufficient reason for withholding their letters.

Reason 2d: That there were two cases of adultery in the church, and that Elder Wolf justified them. It was proved that a certain man named Whelock left his wife, and that she was afterward married to another man by Elder Wolf, her first husband (so far as known) still living, and he not even charged with



fornication, and the parties so being married were held as members, but not allowed to occupy the office of deacon. Elder Wolf, also, with the counsel of eight members, baptized a woman by the name of Cheatersty, while living with a man who had another wife.

Answer: We decided that both cases were absolutely adulterous, and that Elder Wolf did wrong in baptizing in the one case, and in celebrating the marriage in the other, and we require an acknowledgment of him, and of the eight members, also, that gave counsel in the case, and exhort him and them to be more careful in the future.

Reason 3d: Elder Wolf also claims the Annual Meeting to be legislative, and refuses to be subject to its counsel. For the answer, see Art. No. 7.

Reason 4th: Being asked if he would commune with brethren when they wash feet in the double mode, said he could not conscientiously do so.

Answer: In view of the position that Elder Wolf and his adherents occupy, as set forth in the allegation, that they will not wash feet in the double mode, we therefore, in order to give those who differ from them an opportunity to practice as their judgment and conscience dictate, are compelled to organize a church in California in the order of the general brotherhood, under the care and oversight of Elders Isaac Hershey and Michael Sissler, and ordain that the church establish a line, and divide themselves as seems best to them, as we are not acquainted with the geography of the country as respects their several localities.

Reason 5th: They do not practice the kiss between the supper and the communion, nor read the Scriptures, nor speak of the sufferings of Christ, at that time, neither do they close with prayer at the close of the services on such occasions.

Answer: We decide and exhort that they from henceforth adopt the practice of the general brotherhood in those things on such occasions.

Reason 6th: E. L. Prather, a minister, said the cause of the trouble here is, there are two parties of us; we are the Congregational party, the other the Annual Meeting party; we are governed by the word of God, the others by the elders of the Annual Meeting. He admits the charge, and makes the following acknowledgment by his signature:

"Required, that he acknowledge that his language, as used in the charge, reflects seriously upon the Annual Meeting, but as explained to mean congregational in a limited sense, which is accepted, provided he now acknowledges the supremacy of the



Annual Meeting, and agrees to respect its counsels and co-operate with the general brotherhood, giving and taking counsel.

"Signed, E. L. Prather."

Reason 7th: Elders Wolf and Meyers stand charged for writing hard expressions in the "Gospel Trumpet." Charge sustained by the articles over their names; and we, the committee, decide that the language in said articles, when viewed literally, is very distasteful, and reflects seriously upon the dignity of the Annual Meeting, and demands an acknowledgment at the hands of the authors. But as interpreted to mean congregational in a limited sense, which is accepted, provided they now acknowledge the supremacy of the Annual Meeting, and agree to respect its counsels, and co-operate with the general brotherhood in giving and in taking counsel, and also to withdraw their names and influence from said "Gospel Trumpet."

Reason 8th: They will not indorse the action of the committee sent by the Annual Meeting to Missouri, in 1872 but hold those denounced members in full fellowship. This charge not sustained by the evidence.

Reason 9th: That the church in California is in a bad state. Pride is tolerated too much. Even Elder Wolf has departed from the order of the brotherhood in simplicity of dress, and some sisters wearing hats, ribbons, veils, and other superfluities.

Answer: That there is a departure from the order of the church in fashion and dress, is fully sustained by the evidence, and that Elder Wolf has not fully discharged his duty in suppressing and restraining pride, is also manifest. We therefore admonish and exhort him to exercise the functions of his office with the church, in keeping order in this as well as other things.

Reason 10th: That Elder Wolf received and fellowshipped expelled members as brethren and officers in the church, after being informed that they were expelled by letters from the church from whence they came, disregarding the letters, and received them because of their appearance, etc. Elder Wolf explained that the complaint is true in part, and that he was deceived by those men (Flory and Gibson) in part, and that he received them as a matter of courtesy, and not as brethren.

Answer: Considered by us, that as these circumstances have transpired a long time since, and have been before the church time and again, that we dismiss them with a brotherly admonition, that Bro. Wolf erred in associating with these persons as he did, and exhort him in the future to adhere to the scriptural injunction to hold such as a heathen man and a publican, and in all cases respect the action of sister churches regarding the



validity of their letters, etc., rather than the person of expelled members.

Reason 11th: That a deacon baptized in the presence of Elder Wolf. This allegation was sustained by the evidence, but explained by Bro. Broadherst, the deacon who officiated, that the duty of baptizing and celebrating marriage was voted upon him by the church, and given him in charge, when installed in office, to perform these duties when necessary, etc.

Answer: With the above information before us, we thought best to dismiss the case.

Charges preferred by the brethren claiming to be the church of California, against certain persons among those refusing to hand in their letters, etc:

Charge 1st: Against Elder Hershey, Peter Garman, and others, for organizing a church, and doing church business, within the limits of an organized branch.

Answer: Not sustained by the evidence.

Charge 2d: Against Henry Haines, for saying he would not be satisfied until Elder Wolf's office was taken from him, and that the church would never prosper until it was done.

Haines denies, and it is dismissed for want of evidence.

Charge 3d: Against Peter Garman, for attempting to read in public his letter, and those of several others, thereby causing hard feelings among the brethren, and much talk among the outside world. This was done after having an opportunity to read them the day before at church council. Confessed and explained.

Answer: Considered, that it was out of order to read those letters before the public, but inasmuch as he was subject to the call to order by Elder Wolf, that we lay no further penalty upon him.

Charge 4th: Against Henry Haines, for visiting public saloons, and drinking therein.

Answer: Considered, that upon hearing his explanation, we lay no further burden upon him than an admonition to him, and all others, to abstain from such appearance of evil, and that we show a better light to the world.

Charge 5th: Against Bro. Hoxie, for holding the idea of not praying at all in public, and other heretical doctrines, and preaching them publicly and privately. He admits the charge, but says, and also proved, that he has, and did, very soon recant those doctrines, and acknowledges his wrong.



Answer: We consider that the proceedings against him were informal, but as he was much out of order, we now require a frank acknowledgment of him.

The report, as above recorded, was read, re-read, and explained, then submitted, and was unanimously accepted by all the members present, and the requisitions complied with, and we having discharged the duty assigned us in the fear of God, according to our humble ability, submit all into the hands of that body from whom we received our authority, for its approval or rejection, and into the hand of God, the Supreme Ruler of all events, praying that he may, and will, overrule all for the advancement of his cause, for the good of his children, and for the glory of his name. Respectfully submitted by your committee—H. D. Davy, B. F. Moomaw.

San Joaquin County, Cal., Nov. 2, 1874.

The above report was accepted by the Annual Meeting.

Art. 35. The committee appointed by the Annual Meeting of 1874, to collect the minutes of former Annual Meetings, held since the Brethren's Encyclopedia was published, finding a wish among the brethren to have the minutes omitted in the Encyclopedia published, as well as those passed by Annual Meeting since that work was published, have delayed our work until the Annual Meeting gives us further instruction. Shall we, then, publish all the minutes of Annual Meetings that can be collected, or only those passed by the Annual Meetings since the publication of the Brethren's Encyclopedia?

Answer: Let all be published, and the work be called, "Minutes of Annual Councils."

Art. 36. Committees to visit churches: 1. A committee to settle difficulties relative to Bourbon College. The following brethren constitute said committee: Hiel Hamilton, Robert H. Miller, John Metzger, H. D. Davy, and J. P. Ebersole. The same committee will go to Tippecanoe Church, Indiana. 2. A committee to visit the Philadelphia Church. The following brethren are on this committee: H. D. Davy, J. Quinter, Moses Miller, C. Bucher, and Jos. R. Hanawalt. 3. A committee to visit the church in Ogle County, Illinois, that called for a committee. The following brethren are on this committee: Daniel Fry, E. Eby, David E. Price, Daniel Deardorf, and James R. Gish.

Art. 37. Miscellaneous: 1. Inasmuch as there has been no request for the Annual Meeting for 1875, and as the meeting would properly go east of the Ohio River, we recommend the



matter to the brethren in the east, and trust they will consider the subject, and announce the result to the brotherhood as soon as possible. 2. In view of the kindness shown by friends in this community to our brethren during this meeting, by entertaining them very freely, as far, apparently, as was necessary, we acknowledge their kindness, and return them our thanks. 3. A resolution was passed to take up a collection for the needy in the west.

The meeting closed with singing and prayer.

A. H. Senseney, Em. Slifer, Wm. Hertzler, Jos. R. Hanawalt, J. Quinter, H. B. Hylton, Jacob Wine, Elias Aúvil, Jacob Garber, J. P. Ebersole, H. D. Davy, D. B. Sturgis, Jesse Meyers, Hiel Hamilton, Enoch Eby, John Metzger, James R. Gish, Tobias Musser, C. Long, Jacob Brower, S. S. Mohler, Sam. Stump, Isaac Miller, J. W. Brumbaugh.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1876.

De Graff, Logan County, Ohio.

The standing committee met on Monday, June 5th, near De Graff, Logan County, Ohio, and organized by appointing H. D. Davy moderator, J. Quinter clerk, E. Eby reading-clerk, and J. Thomas doorkeeper.

After the devotional exercises on Tuesday morning, the General Council of the church proceeded to business, and the following queries being presented for consideration, were considered in the fear of the Lord, and answered as herein stated:

Article 1. Whereas, there seems to be a disposition on the part of some of our brethren to consume much time on many of the queries that come before our Annual Meeting, and some even become very personal in their remarks; and, whereas, this has caused hard feelings, and severe censure; be it therefore resolved, that the following rules be adopted for the government of our Annual Meeting in the transaction of its business: 1. All queries for discussion, with their answers, shall be read by the clerk, after which the moderator shall declare the same open for discussion. 2. The reading of any question may be called for the second time, but not oftener if there be objections made. 3. No brother shall have the privilege of making more than two speeches on the same subject, except by the consent of the meeting, and the first shall not be longer than fifteen, and the last than five minutes. 4. The moderator shall require every brother,



when speaking, to confine his remarks to the subject before the meeting. 5. Any brother using personalities in his speech, shall be called to order by the moderator; and if he persist, he shall be told to take his seat. 6. The moderator shall decide who has the right to the floor, and when his time expires. 7. The moderator shall decide when the discussion on each subject shall close, and when the question shall be put on its final passage. But if objection be made to his ruling, then the standing committee must unite with him in deciding the matter. 8. It shall be the duty of the moderator to keep order in the congregation; and for this purpose he may call to his assistance other brethren, or the standing committee may call on brethren to keep order.

All former rules not in conflict with the foregoing shall continue in force.

Art. 2. Whereas, the question of a full report has been before the Annual Meeting time and again for consideration; and, whereas, upon the propriety of such a report a difference of opinion obtains among the brethren; therefore, resolved, that this meeting will not assume the responsibility of granting such a report. But should any brethren publish it, they shall be held responsible for any wrong that may be committed in doing so. And we also decide that it shall not be published in any of our periodicals.

Art. 3. Is it agreeable to the gospel and faith, and order of the brethren, to hold the office of school director under the present laws of Pennsylvania?

Answer: We think it best for brethren not to serve in such capacity, where a school director, according to the laws of the state, may have to collect school-tax, and imprison a person if he does not pay his tax.

Art. 4. Is it right to reject all queries coming before the Annual Meeting, simply because they do not contain a proviso to repeal all other queries previously passed by Annual Meetings, which may conflict with the last one presented?

Answer: While we do not think it always necessary, in a formal manner, to reconsider a former query before another answer to the query is made, nevertheless we consider it best to refer to former decisions, and have it understood that such decisions are void when they conflict with the last decision.

Art. 5. Inasmuch as the brethren's hymn-book, as now published, is very deficient in selections adapted to the wants of the church, and also contains a large number of badly-composed hymns, this meeting petitions the Annual Meeting for the privilege



of publishing a new book, or to have the present one thoroughly revised. This meeting further petitions that the Annual Meeting appoint for this work a committee of four brethren, thoroughly posted in versification, and then grant to each of our publishing brethren the privilege of publishing their own books, or those they need, to supply their patrons, or else have them published jointly, as may be determined upon by the publishers, but not to be copyrighted.

Answer: We think it best to make no change in regard to our hymn-book.

Art. 6. We ask for a reconsideration of Art. 11, of last year.

Answer: We agree to reconsider the above query, and think that the delegate should first represent the sentiments of the district-meeting, but after doing so, should have the privilege of speaking his own sentiments.

Art. 7. We respectfully ask the Annual Meeting, through the district-meeting, to say what course should be pursued when a committee from the Annual Meeting has been sent to adjust matters in a congregation where there are two elders, between whom some unkindness and want of social relations exist, yet no grave charge against either. Is it legitimate to suspend them at home only, and to put in authority over said church an unordained brother, and hold church and officers amenable to said committee until said elders cultivate social relations with each other, with the promise by said committee that as soon as these conditions are complied with, all should be restored; and when elders have complied, for said committee to withdraw their connection from said church, and leave it in that unorganized condition?

Answer: In reference to the above subject we would say that we can not accept of the answer given by the district-meeting, but would say, that in view of the known conditions of the case, we submit it to the church involved in the trouble, and the five following elders: Isaac Long, Jacob Thomas, Solomon Garber, Jacob Wine, and Martin Garber.

Art. 8. Why does the church, after exacting a promise of non-conformity to the world in appearance as a condition of membership, accept brethren as participants in the deliberations of the Annual Meeting who disregard this solemn promise?

Answer: No brother ought to be permitted to speak in public at our Annual Meetings who will dress after the fashion of the world.



Art. 9. How is it considered when brethren receive those of other denominations into their houses, and ask them to give thanks at their tables, and hold family worship? What is to be done in such cases? or does the gospel allow that liberty in any case?

Answer: While we would not, under all circumstances, think it wrong to extend the liberty above alluded to, we think the brethren should be careful in granting such liberty. The character of our guests, and the attendant circumstances, should govern in such cases.

Art. 10. A request that the Annual Meeting limit the power of committees, so as not to allow them to expel a majority of any church, unless their decision is ratified by the Annual Meeting in open session.

Answer: The request is granted.

Art. 11. We wish the Annual Meeting to say whether we shall have a rolling or standing collar on our coats.

Answer: While we can not positively say which of the above forms of the coat should be worn, we would advise the brethren to try to become more uniform and plain, rather than to depart from the order of plainness, not only in our coats, but in every thing else.

Art. 12. Is it right for an elder, or for elders, to take up charges and act upon them without name or authorship?

Answer: An elder may receive a complaint from a report injurious to the Christian character of a brother, without the name of the person who makes the complaint, but a direct charge against a member should be accompanied by the name of the brother that makes the charge.

Art. 13. Is it right for members to get those fine, costly, and fashionable burial-cases to bury their dead in, and to employ a fashionable hearse to convey them to the burying-ground in?

Answer: We decide it is not right for brethren to do so.

Art. 14. As we consider that the grape juice is not wine until after fermentation has taken place, will not this district-meeting ask the Annual Meeting to repeal the wine question of last year, and decide that only the fermented juice of the grape shall be used on communion occasions, as has always been the practice of the church?

Answer: We decide that no change shall be made from the last decision.



Art. 15. Is it according to the gospel, and order of the brethren, when a brother is elected to the ministry, and accepts the office, and is installed, and afterward gets disobedient, and says he can not preach, for the church to release him so far that he is not under any obligations to preach only in case he should feel to do so; and thereby help him to live in disobedience, and give him liberty to serve as a deacon, when he was never elected to a deacon's office? If so, let the gospel authority be presented?

Answer: We consider it neither according to the gospel nor the order of the brethren to do so.

Art. 16. A brother has a dairy, and objections were made against him for furnishing his customers milk on Sunday, claiming that brethren would do no more harm to work on their farms on Sunday. The brother claims that his customers, many of them, are ministers, and ministers of Sabbatarian churches, who say they must have their milk; besides, he furnishes milk for the sick, and for children raised by the bottle; and he says not to be allowed to furnish the milk would ruin his business, and subject him to heavy loss. What is to be done in the case?

Answer: We can not grant a brother liberty to furnish milk on the Sabbath to his customers, only to the sick and to the children, and we advise him to get out of the business as soon as possible.

Art. 17. We petition the Annual Meeting to reconsider the following words, found in the plan for holding district-meetings, adopted by the Annual Meeting of 1866: "A record may be kept, but not published," and so amend the same as to give liberty to the district-meetings to print minutes of their proceedings for distribution among the members of their respective districts.

Answer: This Annual Meeting reconsiders said words, and grant the privilege asked for.

Art. 18. Is it right, according to the gospel and the order of the church, for members to attend the Centennial?

Answer: No (See John 15: 17-19, 16: 14-16; 2 Cor. 6: 14-18, 1 John 4: 7; James 4: 4.)

Art. 19. Is it right, according to the gospel, for a brother to plead the laws of the land, and act as an attorney?

Answer: The brethren have always considered it not according to the gospel for a brother to practice law and act as an attorney, and we can make no change in this respect.

Art. 20. Should a brother (being executor) be allowed, after



fearing some of the papers might not be worth full value, to use means to get another brother to go security on said papers, and thereby run the risk of the estate; and shall such executor be allowed to sue such brother, and collect such amount in full, or only the amount the paper was worth before the security was on, the whole matter being under the control of the church?

Answer: We consider it wrong, according to our understanding of the case, for the brother who was the executor to get his Christian brother to go on the paper as security, and it was very wrong for the executor to sue his Christian brother.

Art. 21. Is it wrong for sisters to wear fashionable hats instead of bonnets? and where is the Scripture forbidding the wearing of such hats?

Answer: We decide it is wrong according to Rom. 12: 2; 1 Tim. 2: 9.

Art. 22. What does the Annual Meeting consider should be done with elders and others, who make promise to a committee sent by the Annual Meeting to set things in order among them, and then do not respect the reports made to them by the committee, and do not comply with their promises for eighteen months or two years?

Answer: This Annual Meeting authorizes the committee appointed to California in 1874, to see that their report is properly carried out.

Art. 23. Whereas, we have a query from No. 1 district of Virginia, one from West Virginia, one from the middle district of Indiana, and one from the southern district of Indiana, requesting the Annual Meeting to grant the district-meetings power to send committees to settle difficulties in the churches; therefore,

Resolved, that we decide to make no changes in this respect, believing our present manner of sending committees is preferable to the one proposed.

Art. 24. Whereas, a number of queries have come to this Annual Meeting relative to a change in the manner of holding said meeting; and, whereas, the changes proposed, though various, would not change the meeting very much from the present way in which it is held; and, whereas, the change proposed will not probably lessen to any very great extent the multitude in attendance; therefore, resolved, taking all things into consideration, that we make no general change, but will adhere as closely as possible to the plan adopted in 1866, and labor to lessen as



much as possible the attendance at the meeting, and increase its facilities for business.

Art. 25. Several queries and requests relative to feet-washing being presented to the meeting, the following was prepared to meet the case: Whereas, the so-called double mode in feet-washing is the recognized mode of the general brotherhood; therefore, the Annual Meeting can not grant the liberty prayed for, and no church can change from the double to the single mode on the authority of the Annual Meeting.

Deferred.

Art. 26. To the Annual Meeting of the German Baptist brethren, for the year of our Lord, 1876, we send greeting: Inasmuch as a committee sent to the Brush Creek Church, Adams County, Ohio, by the Annual Meeting of 1874, found that we of the above-named church asked the questions to applicants for baptism before going into the water; that we had in part adopted the single mode of feet-washing, and that we dismissed our congregations with a benediction, said committee required of us that we abandon the last, practice the double mode of feet-washing, and to send the first to the Annual Meeting. The Brush Creek Church, in consultation upon these subjects, has unanimously decided to practice the single mode of feet-washing, to continue the use of the benediction, and to ask questions to applicants before going into the water, as it formerly has done. And we request this district-meeting of southern Ohio to send to the Annual Meeting these three questions, to-wit: 1. Is it wrong to dismiss a congregation with a benediction? 2. Are we wrong in washing feet by the single mode? 3. Is it wrong to ask questions to applicants for baptism before going into the water? And inasmuch as the Brush Creek Church, in southern Ohio, is dissatisfied with their district-meeting of 1874, because it called to the Annual Meeting of that year for a committee to visit our church upon mere report; is dissatisfied with the Annual Meeting of 1874, because it appointed said committee on said report, and contrary to its own law; is also dissatisfied with that committee for coming here, without any notice to us of what they were coming for; we therefore ask a satisfactory explanation of the whole proceeding, or an acknowledgment to us by each of those bodies for their conduct in these matters.

Query 1st: Can the Annual Meeting claim its decisions as advice only (See Minutes of 1866, Art. 34), and at the same time threaten with expulsion those who do not obey them?



Query 2d: Is a committee justifiable in threatening a church with expulsion, after admitting that said church has all the essentials of salvation?

We also ask of the district-meeting of southern Ohio, to recognize Wm. Calvert and Landon West as delegates from the Brush Creek Church to the district and Annual Meetings of our brethren for the year 1876.

May Hill, Adams Co., Ohio, April 15, 1876.

Whereas, a committee was sent by the Annual Meeting of 1874, to the Brush Creek Church, in Adams County, Ohio, to set things in order in said church; and, whereas, the report of said committee was accepted by said church, but it has not only failed but refused to carry out said report; therefore, resolved, that we can not consistently do otherwise than hold said church to the carrying out of the report of the committee, as it promised to do, and also require of it to take back certain offensive charges contained in an address to the district of southern Ohio, and through it to the Annual Meeting, dated April 15, 1876.

The following committee, being the committee sent in 1874, is re-appointed to go to said church to do whatever is necessary to be done in the case: H. D. Davy, R. H. Miller, and John Wise. J. Quinter was added to the committee.

Art. 27. The committee, namely H. D. Davy, Moses Miller, Jos. R. Hanawalt, Christian Bucher, and J. Quinter, appointed by the last Annual Meeting to visit the Philadelphia Church, to settle difficulties in said church, met in Philadelphia on the 27th of October, 1875, and organized by appointing H. D. Davy foreman, and J. Quinter clerk, and after devotional exercises proceeded to hear the grievances from the grieved brethren, which were the following: 1. They (the majority) have a paid minister not elected from among the brethren in Philadelphia, but "called" from a distance, and have given him pre-eminence over older ministers chosen by the church. Considered by the committee, that while it is contrary to the gospel, as understood by the brethren, to pay the minister any particular sum as a salary, and while we should guard with care against the practice, in the case under consideration, it does not appear that any particular amount was contracted for by the parties concerned, although money was made more prominent than is commendable in such cases. And in regard to the pre-eminence, we decide there was not the caution taken by the church to avoid offense that should have been taken, and that Bro. J. P. Hetric should not have pre-eminence over Bro. Custer, touching the liberty to preach the word. 2. They (the



majority) require this paid minister to do the principal part of the preaching, disregarding the order of the brethren that our ministers shall have the privilege to preach by turns. Considered, from the testimony that came before us, in the fact that the meetings were advertised in the papers for Bro. Hetric, and that, as pastor of the church, there was an error committed, and an admonition is necessary. 3. They (the majority) set aside the reading of the Scripture in order by the deacons, a rule established when the church was organized in Philadelphia. Considered, that as there is no general order among the brethren in regard to this usage, whatever the church decides upon should be acquiesced in by all the members. 4. They (the majority) make basket collections of money on Sundays, during meetings for worship. Considered wrong, and contrary to the order of the gospel, as understood by the brethren, to make collections on the Lord's-day, save for the poor, and the brethren should cease to do so. 5. They (the majority) have a wooden pool under the pulpit, in which they baptize in the meeting-house. Considered, that inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has decided that it is wrong to make use of a pool in a house, for the purpose of baptizing, the brethren have erred in using said pool since, and shall cease to do so until reconsidered by the Annual Meeting. 6. They (the majority) make Sunday-school anniversaries, entertainments, excursions, etc. Considered, that inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has decided that it is wrong to have Sunday-school picnics, anniversaries, entertainments, etc., that the brethren erred in taking part as they did, and should abstain hereafter from doing so. 7. They (the majority) have a Sunday-school library, consisting mostly of books of religious fiction. Considered, that inasmuch as the brethren in Annual Meeting have advised brethren, in conducting Sabbath-schools, to use such books as contain nothing that conflicts with the principles of the gospel, as held by the brethren, said counsel should be observed by the brethren in procuring books for Sabbath-schools. 8. They (the majority) have instrumental music in the Sunday-school. Considered, that according to the understanding of the gospel by the brethren, and as given in councils of the Annual Meetings, it is considered wrong for members to have musical instruments, we therefore decide that the brethren should cease to use an instrument of music in the Sabbath-school. 9. They (the majority) are, in all the above new things, in unison with the popular and fashionable religion, having abandoned the non-conformity testimonies and practice of the brotherhood.



Considered, that from the foregoing grievance, and from the departure we see, we would most earnestly and affectionately urge the brethren and sisters of the Philadelphia Church to adhere to the doctrine of nonconformity to the world in dress, in spirit, and in every way that doctrine can be applied, as this constitutes such a prominent doctrine of the gospel, and one of the peculiarities of our brotherhood. H. D. Davy, J. Quinter, J. R. Hanawalt, C. Bucher, M. Miller.

In regard to the case of the Philadelphia Church, we accept of the report of the committee sent to said church, and reappoint the committee first appointed to have the said report carried out.

Art. 28. Inasmuch as there has been a certain legacy bequeathed to the standing committee of the German Baptist Church by the last will and testament of Solomon G. Karn; and inasmuch as said money was bequeathed on certain specified conditions, we here give the last will and testament by which said bequest is made to the standing committee of the German Baptist Church:

“Know all men by these presents, that I, Solomon G. Karn, of the County of Wabash, and State of Indiana, being of sound mind, do make and publish this, my last will and testament.

“First: I give and bequeath to my beloved wife, Martha L. Karn, lots Nos. 49 and 50, in the town of Manchester, in said county and state, and now occupied by us as our home; also, a certain tract of land in Douglas County, and State of Kansas, belonging to me, and for which I am entitled to a deed, to have as her own, or convey by deed in fee simple, as she may choose; also, all and every article of personal property in our possession, including my mare, buggy and harness, and four hundred dollars, to be paid to her as soon as it can be collected from my outstanding claims.

“I will, further, that my wife shall have the selection of my tombstones, and that my executor pay for them out of the residue of my estate, together with any expense they may apply to my grave.

“Second: It is hereby expressly provided, that should there hereafter an heir be born to me, the residue of my moneys and effects (after the payment of my debts) shall be placed at interest, to the best advantage, for the benefit of said heir, when arriving at majority, but the interest of said money shall be paid annually to my wife, and be subject to her control during her natural life.

“In the event said posthumous child should die before my wife, the interest shall still be paid to my wife, as [and] in the event that my wife and said child should both die before the child



becomes of age of majority, then the remainder of estate shall be paid to the standing committee of the first annual conference of the German Baptist Church (of which I am a member), to be used by said committee for the spread of the gospel, or for the purpose of charity, as they shall think right and proper.

"If at any time, by misfortune or illness, the interest, as above, should prove insufficient for the support of my wife, as provided, she shall have the principal to meet expenditures.

"Third: I do hereby nominate and appoint John Bussard, of Miami County, Indiana, executor of this my last will and testament. I do hereby revoke all former wills by me made.

"In testimony hereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 12th day of November, A. D. 1868.

"Solomon G. Karn [Seal.] "

"Signed and acknowledged by said Solomon G. Karn, as his last will and testament, in our presence, and signed by us in his presence.

"Wesley Bussard,  
"J. B. Harter."

Will proved before James M. Amars, clerk Wabash County Court Common Pleas, on the 19th day of December, 1868, by Wesley Bussard.

We, the brethren of the German Baptist Church, assembled in conference at the meeting-house of the brethren in Logan County, Ohio, on the 6th day of June, 1876, decide that the prospective bequest made in the aforesaid last will and testament of Solomon G. Karn, in favor of the German Baptist Church, shall be released. And we hereby authorize the standing committee of this meeting to sign a release of said prospective claim, as set forth in the foregoing will, giving to the mother of said posthumous child, which child is a daughter, now living, and about the age of — years, all the right, title, claim, and interest prospectively held by us in the aforesaid will.

The German Baptist Church, to which the contingent fund above alluded to has been intrusted, having some fears that the foregoing release may not be sufficient to meet the laws of the State of Indiana, appoint the following brethren, and give them full power to make any release of the funds above alluded to that the laws of the State of Indiana may require: H. D. Davy, Samuel Mohler, and Isaac Studebaker.

Passed by the unanimous consent of this Annual Meeting.

Art. 29. Committees to visit churches: 1. A committee to



visit Dry Valley Church, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania. The following brethren constitute the committee: John Gluck, Solomon Seiber, and Geo. Brumbaugh. 2. The following brethren are a committee to go to the West Nimishillen Church, Stark County, Ohio: R. H. Miller, Daniel Brower, and J. P. Ebersole. 3. The following brethren are a committee to go to the English River Church, Iowa: E. K. Beeghly, Peter Forney, and M. Sisler. 4. In compliance with a request from the George's Creek Church, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, for a committee, the following brethren were appointed: D. P. Sayler, John Wise, and J. Quinter. 5. The following brethren are a committee to the Welsh Run Church, Pennsylvania: D. P. Sayler, J. D. Trostle, and Jacob Price. 6. The following brethren are a committee to the Antietam Church, Franklin County, Pennsylvania: D. Long, D. Keller, and Daniel Eckman.

Art. 30. A request was made by the middle district of Pennsylvania, for the Annual Meeting of 1877, which was granted. Accordingly, the Lord willing, the next Annual Meeting will be with the brethren in the district above named, and in the congregation selected by the proper authority. The place will be announced in due time in our periodicals.

After a season of devotional exercises, the meeting adjourned.

Standing committee: D. P. Sayler, D. Long, Samuel Harley, M. Miller, J. Quinter, E. Fleshman, I. Long, D. B. Arnold, G. Irwin, J. Brown, H. D. Davy, M. Shotts, J. Flory, R. H. Miller, E. Eby, D. E. Price, J. Metzger, Jos. Ogg, Abr. Stamy, Daniel Zook, Wm. Gish, Isaac Miller.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1877.

New Enterprise, Pa.

On Monday, May 21st, the Standing Committee met and organized by appointing D. P. Sayler Moderator, J. Quinter Writing Clerk, E. Eby Reading Clerk, H. B. Brumbaugh Copying Clerk, J. W. Brumbaugh Door-keeper, and C. G. Lint and Jacob Thomas a committee to keep order.

On Tuesday morning the public council was opened by the ordinary devotional exercises, and the reading of the 15th chapter of Acts. The following subjects were then presented for consideration and disposed of as stated:

I. Will this District Meeting petition our Annual Conference



to suggest to all the churches the necessity of restraining brethren from traveling as Evangelists among the churches when said Evangelists will not, both by precept and example, faithfully maintain and urge the adoption of the recognized order of the general Brotherhood in the matter of dress, including also fully the doctrine of non-conformity to the world, as held by our faithful brethren, and thus have each branch of the Church watchful in guarding against sowing the seeds of discord among brethren?

Answer: We do so petition Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting grants the foregoing petition of the District Meeting.

II. How does this Annual Meeting understand the 5th article of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1866, when members have located in a church and have willingly neglected and refused to present their letters as specified in said article? Has said church the authority to disown said members the same as transgressing members of that arm of the church, or has said church the authority only to withhold from such members all church fellowship?

Answer: The said church has not complete jurisdiction over such members, but may withhold the ordinances from them and refer their cases to the church they moved from, if they refuse to hand in their letter.

III. Shall brother Hope receive into the church members who do not comply with our mode of dress, but comply with all other requirements, their dress being even more simple than ours?

Answer: This District Meeting decides that all who are received into the church in Denmark shall be received with the promise to conform to the order of the church with regard to dress, as laid down by the Brethren in America.

IV. When a query is sent requiring a definite answer, have the delegates the power to withdraw it?

Answer: Delegates have no authority to withdraw any query sent through them to Annual Meeting.

V. Is it right, according to the gospel, for our editorial brethren to applaud and eulogize through their papers, brethren who travel from one congregation to another, upon their success as preachers?

Answer: Not right.

VI. As there is not a uniform practice among the churches,



since some send a visit to all the members before every communion, while others send only an annual visit, which is the nearest the Gospel and for the good of the church?

Deferred.

VII. This District Meeting requests Annual Meeting to inquire into the missionary work now begun in Denmark, and if it thinks it advisable to recommend it to the sympathy and support of the general brotherhood.

Answer: Whereas from what we know of the success of the Danish Mission, we do grant the request of the Middle District of Pennsylvania. The following resolution in regard to the Danish Mission was also passed by the Annual Meeting:

Resolved, That this Annual Meeting approve of a collection being made while in session, for the Danish Mission.

VIII. A brother has his office taken from him and he moves to another congregation with his certificate of good standing as a private member. Now if the congregation where this brother lives needs help in the ministry can they reinstate him by the consent of the church or should he stand his chance with others in an election?

Answer: He may be reinstated in his office, but it must be done by the consent of both congregations, the one from which he removed and the one in which he now resides. And not interfering with the past action of congregations, in the future officers who have been deposed must be restored as above and not re-elected.

IX. We petition Annual Meeting to reconsider Article 11, of 1876, and so amend its answer that it make the standing collar on the coat the old order as recognized by the Brethren.

Answer: This Annual Meeting reconsiders the above article and grants the request.

X. Whereas we deem fairness honorable in all cases, and feeling aggrieved at the way the question of Feet-washing has been treated, we wish to know whether it is right for the Standing Committee to take queries that have been answered by District Meetings, and change the answers, and then bring their answers before the Meeting and put them on the Minutes without being passed by the Annual Meeting.

Answer: No, we think not. This answer was given by the District Meeting. Then when the subject came before the Annual Meeting the following resolution was passed: Resolved, that as there is a charge against the Standing Committee, we appoint a



committee to ascertain whether the charge is true. A committee was appointed, and the following is its report which was accepted and passed by Annual Meeting:

To the Annual Meeting: We, your Committee appointed to investigate the above charge against the Standing Committee, of last year, would say, that if the charge was sustained against said Committee, it would be responsible for transcending its prerogatives, but inasmuch as the action taken, and answer given was upon a query to which no answer was given by District Meeting, we find that the charge is not fully sustained. And—whereas it is claimed by the complainant that inasmuch as the promise was given by Standing Committee through its Chairman in 1875, that if they would bring their query in proper form to next Annual Meeting, they should be heard, and then when so brought the Committee of '76, suppressed it with its answer, and put their own answer to a similar query upon the minutes which did not pass the Meeting.

In this, we find that the query in question with its answer, was read before the Meeting, and also the query which had no answer from District Meeting, with the answer of the Standing Committee, the whole matter was now brought before the Meeting, and freely discussed in the presence of the representatives of the complainant whose right it was to have moved the consideration of their petition. The query and answer submitted by the Standing Committee failing to pass, it was decided to defer it. The answer, however, was put upon the Minutes, which in our judgment was wrong, but for this wrong we find the Clerk responsible, and not chargeable to the Standing Committee.

B. F. Moomaw,  
Jacob Berkey,  
J. W. Brumbaugh.

XI. As political elections have caused trouble and hard feelings in many congregations, the Northern District of Indiana, respectfully asks Annual Meeting to make voting at political elections a test of fellowship.

Answer: We re-adopt the Minutes of Annual Meeting, 1866, Article 1.

XII. If a District of any State makes a request for the Annual Meeting, would it not be proper for the whole State to help bear the expenses if requested to do so by said District?

Answer: Yes, it is proper by their consent.

XIII. Will not the Annual Meeting give some plan for the adjoining elders to be assembled when it is necessary to set churches in order?

Answer: Where churches are out of order, the elders themselves not carrying out the order, it is the duty of the adjoining elders to notify the resident elder to call his church together at a



set time, the elders and church involved having the privilege to call any disinterested elders, if they are such as are in the order of the general brotherhood, from any church.

XIV. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has decided that it is wrong for members to have and use musical instruments in their houses—what is to be done with members that will not put them away? Can we make it a test of church fellowship? And what shall be done with elders that justify musical instruments, and consequently make no effort to put them out of their congregations?

Answer: Inasmuch as the use of musical instruments has been the cause of trouble among our brethren in some places, and has been frequently brought before Annual Meeting, we would re-adopt the decision of 1873, and advise our brethren to put them away where they cause offense and trouble in the church; and members who would not do so should fall under the judgment of the church. And as many of our brethren have them where it is not opposed by their church, and as the evil of them is more in the improper use of them than in the instrument itself, we cannot decide the simple keeping and use of such musical instruments shall be made a test of fellowship. The great evil being in the improper use of them and in the trouble they produce we advise the brethren to be careful to avoid offence and trouble by keeping them when they wound the brethren, and elders should be dealt with as transgressors when they encourage the brethren to do so.

XV. Whereas committees have been called from Annual Meeting without first asking consent of the arm of the church to be visited by the committees, thereby causing hard feelings; will this District Meeting decide to ask Annual Meeting to refuse to send committees on the petition of members who refuse or neglect to first ask the consent of the arm visited, and thereby failing to apprise the church of their desire before they get a petition with signers to obtain a committee.

Answer: We request Annual Meeting to decide that all parties desiring a committee, shall first ask the consent of the arm of the church to be visited, and if refused consent then they may petition Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting decides as requested.

XVI. How is it considered by the brethren in Annual Council in regard to sisters wearing fashionable hats while surrounding the communion table? Can the officiating brother consistently break the bread to such?

Answer: Inasmuch as there has been advantage taken of the decision of Annual Meeting of '76, on the subject of sisters wearing fashionable hats; we hence decide that the sisters shall not



wear any hats at all at communion meetings or at any other time, and our brethren should not break the bread of communion to a sister with a hat upon her head, and elders or ministers who encourage and allow sisters to wear hats should be promptly dealt with as transgressors.

XVII. Inasmuch as Annual Meeting ordered the compiling of Hymns for the use of the church, and subsequently accepted the collection as the Brethren's hymn book, and inasmuch as we are now perhaps outstripping ALL the FASHIONABLE denominations in variety of binding, and grandeur, including six or eight different colors, nicely figured lids, gilt edge, metal clasps, &c, to gratify the eye. Will not this Annual Meeting put some restrictions upon the publishers, so that we may have more of a sameness in the appearance of our hymn books and thus be more consistent with our profession?

Answer: We should not have more than two or three different colors and they should be plain, and the books should have no ornament or superfluity in the binding, such as gilt or flowering.

XVIII. We petition the Annual Meeting through the District Meeting to reconsider the divorce question. For instance, a woman takes up with a young man, and leaves her husband and three children; then she was disowned. After some years she gets a divorce, and the husband married another woman. Can he now be retained as a member of the church? Both were members of the church before the wife left her husband. Is he now living in adultery, or are the innocent free or clear, according to the Savior's words, "Except it be for fornication," Matt. 19: 9.

Answer: We defer this question.

XIX. Inasmuch as there is an increasing difference of opinion among the brethren relating to laying before our applicants for baptism the principles of non-resistance, non-swearing, and non-conformity to the world, some preferring to do this before the whole congregation, while others do it before the church only. Will, therefore this Annual Meeting reconsider former minutes upon this subject, and grant to each District the privilege to act in this matter as the church with its surrounding circumstances may think best?

Answer: We think it best to make no change from former decisions of Annual Meeting.

XX. Does the Annual Meeting positively prohibit members from any literary or debating societies?



Answer: We would reaffirm the former decision of our Annual Meeting that our brethren should not attend the so called Lyceums or such debating societies as indulge in theatrical performances for mere amusement, and which are contrary to gospel principles; but a literary society which only discusses the subjects of literature taught in our common school books, and the sciences taught in our common schools and other moral and well governed schools, we will not prohibit.

XXI. Will not this District Meeting re-petition the Annual Meeting to reconsider query 8, of 1874, and repeal that portion of answer of said query where it says "You have no authority to go into the acknowledged territory of any organized church to make appointments for preaching unless called for by the elders or council of said church; it is an assumption of authority for an ordained elder to do so?" We the District of W. Va., grant the above request.

Answer: Inasmuch as ministering brethren have abused their liberty in being too ready to go into other congregations, and there preaching and talking in a way that has given trouble and produced confusion in the congregations into which they have gone, we think it best not to make the change asked for. Prudent ministers will have no difficulty from the restrictions.

XXII. In view of the assumption of power by the Standing Committee of last Annual Meeting in suppressing the answer to queries sent by D. M. and giving their own instead thereof, we ask you to enter your protest against such proceedings and demand that all questions from D. M. having answers shall go before the meeting without alteration, and that the Standing Committee frame answers only to such as have no answers to them. Considered that this meeting concurs in the sentiment of the above petition and therefore grant the wish of the petitioners.

Answer: The Standing Committee did not suppress the answer from the District Meeting of Va., and they should take the charge back.

XXIII. There having been different papers presented to Annual Meeting both for and against a change in the manner of holding it, said papers were given into the hands of a committee, that made the following report which was deferred.

To the Annual Meeting. We your Committee in pursuance of the duties assigned us to present some plan by which the conflicting sentiments of the Brethren in reference to the manner of conducting the business of our Annual Meeting might be harmonized, submit the following: First, that whereas petitions were before us praying for a change, with plans submitted, and others



remonstrating against a change, yet all together representing but a small proportion of the Brotherhood, we are not of the opinion that a material change is desirable. We therefore decide that no general change be made, but that some amendment may be made to advantage. We therefore submit the following:

That we would make no change in the organization or management of District Meeting, other than we would earnestly recommend a greater effort by them to settle all local matters, according to the powers invested in them by the present plan, as laid down by Annual Meeting of 1866, and that all questions sent up to the Annual Meeting should be accompanied with an answer if possible, and if not possible and not of too grave importance, deferred for consideration until next D. M.

Second, that on the clause under the head of the organization of the Annual Meeting with reference to the final disposition of questions, "And declare all Queries passed after general consent is obtained," we would add, and if a decision can not be obtained in this way it shall be decided by a vote of the Standing Committee and delegates present. In all other respects we recommend that the plan formed by Annual Meeting of 1866 be strictly adhered to, with such amendment as has since been passed by Annual Meeting and not hold out any inducements for a mixed multitude to attend these meetings because they are intended for business only. B. F. Moomaw, John P. Ebersole, Moses Miller, Jacob Berkey, D. E. Price.

XXIV. As many brethren desire to wash feet by the single mode, will not D. M. earnestly petition the Annual Meeting of 1877 to grant to any church of the Brethren full liberty to wash by each member girding him or her self and both wash and wipe the feet of another when it can be done in peace and harmony?

Answer: Inasmuch as the so-called double mode of feet-washing is the order of the general brotherhood, this Annual Meeting cannot sanction the practice of different modes; but those churches which wish to observe the single mode we will bear with, when it can be done unanimously and without giving any trouble or offence in the church. And as there are different views on this matter among our brethren, we would caution both members and ministers in going from one church to another that they shall not agitate and stir up the minds of the brethren on this subject.

XXV. We, the brethren and sisters of Barren Ridge, would ask the District Meeting of Va. No. 2, and Annual Meeting to favor us with a frequent change in moderators and clerks as it is thought it would give better satisfaction to both District and Annual Meeting to do so. This District Meeting approves of the



above named change, and asks the sanction of the Annual Meeting to it.

Answer: This Annual Meeting sanctions the change.

XXVI. It is requested that article 7th, of the Minutes of 1872, be reconsidered.

Answer: We decide to reconsider and adopt the following: It is not necessary that the offices be unanimous, but a majority of the officers is sufficient.

XXVII. Will this District Meeting petition the Annual Meeting to re-adopt the answer of Annual Meeting 1827, Art. 3, and also of Annual Meeting of 1838, Art. 13, so as to receive members of other denominations who have been baptized by a valid baptism, that is, by triune immersion?

Answer: This Annual Meeting decides not to adopt the Minutes alluded to in the query.

XXVIII. Will not this District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to reconsider the third query of last year?

Answer: This Annual Meeting decides not to reconsider said query.

XXIX. A request from the Philadelphia church asking Annual Meeting to reconsider Article 2, of Minutes of 1875. Therefore we, the District Meeting of Eastern Pa., send said request up for reconsideration.

Answer: We decide to make no change from the Minutes of 1875.

XXX. How do we, the members of the Philadelphia church that have been baptized in the pool or baptistry stand in relation to the church at large; and does the church consider it a valid, christian baptism?

The above query was read and considered by the Philadelphia church and referred to District Meeting. District Meeting agreed to refer this query to Annual Meeting.

Answer: We decide that those who were baptized in the pool were baptized with a valid baptism and those who walk in the order of the gospel and the Brethren, are recognized as members of the church.

XXXI. A request of the District Meeting of Eastern Pa. to give an answer to Article 7, 1875, in regard to ordaining elders.

Annual Meeting gives the following form:



Dear Brother A. B., the church having called you to the ministry of the Word, and on trial has found you faithful in your calling; she now proposes to advance you to the full ministry by ordaining you an Elder, or Bishop, by the laying on of hands by the presbytery. In ordaining you an Elder, the church gives you all the right and authority belonging to the ministry, such as presiding in council meetings in which official members are tried, at home or abroad, if you are called to do so, in District or Annual Meetings; to give the charge to deacons, or ministers, and install them into their respective offices. In short, the church now invests you with all the rights and authority belonging to the Eldership, you being equal with all the Elders; this phrase nevertheless in the apostolic injunction, "Ye younger submit yourselves to the elder" still applies to you; and should you manifest an arbitrary, self-willed and domineering spirit, the church will hold you subject to her councils, and suspend you, and take from you all the authority she now gives you, and again reduce you to the laity, or even expel you from membership if necessary.

It will be your duty faithfully to preach the word, and to care for the wants of all the membership, being yourself an example to the church in all holiness and purity of heart, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. It will be your duty in all the affairs of the church, to counsel with your official brethren and with the church; taking the oversight not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind, and in no way to lord it over God's heritage. The church will not allow you to depart from the order of the general brotherhood in faith and practice; but will hold you to the faith and practice of the Scriptures as defined by the brethren in Annual Meeting assembled.

Now dear brother A. B. do you willingly accept the position into which the church now proposes to put you? And do you, in good faith, without any mental reservation, accept and adopt all the order and practice of the general brotherhood in all her peculiarities, plainness of dress, and non-conformity to the world? And do you promise to unite your labors with all your faithful brethren, every where to observe and enforce all the faith and practice of the general brotherhood? The Elders will now lay hands on the brother, and pray, and the church will then receive him in the usual order, by the right hand of fellowship, and kiss of love. And it will be the duty of the church to honor and respect the brother in the office of bishop, according to the apostolic instruction, and to aid him in observing all the faith and order of the general brotherhood.

XXXII. Several papers having been received from California relating to the difficulties existing in the church there, these papers were committed to a committee for examination. Accordingly they were examined and reported upon by said committee, and the Annual Meeting received the report, which is as follows:

We, the committee appointed by the standing committee of Annual Meeting of 1877 to examine the California papers and make



the best investigation of the difficulties there existing, having examined said papers, committee's report as endorsed by Annual Meeting of 1875, and testimony and explanation of brother B. F. Moomaw, one of the committee, sent, have concluded as follows: Whereas Elder Wolf with his charge had in good faith promised to carry out the decision of the committee sent, and has not done so, we in love admonish him and his charge yet to carry out said decision, and labor for union, not only with the Stanislaus church in California, but with the general brotherhood, for the glory of God and the good of souls, and should they fail to comply with this request by Jan. 1st 1878, then we cannot fellowship them any longer.

John P. Ebersole,  
Samuel C. Stump,  
Moses Miller.

XXXIII. This Annual Meeting decides that the Southern District of Ohio shall take into their care and oversight the churches of Highland and Adams counties, Ohio, to which the Annual Meeting sent committees in 1874 and 1876, and said churches having accepted the Report of said committees of said District, shall assist the brethren appointed at District Meeting to have the said decisions carried out in a spirit of love and forbearance, and and work with them to have them come to the order recognized by our Brotherhood.

#### COMMITTEES.

1 The committee to Falls City Church, Nebraska—Daniel Sell, Henry Brubaker and Wm. Gish.

2 The committee to Waterloo Church, Iowa—Daniel Hol-singer, of Iowa, Henry Strickler and Joseph Ogg.

3. The committee to South Bend Church, Ind. R. H. Miller, Enoch Eby, John P. Ebersole, James Quinter and John Metzger.

4 The committee to Jonathan's Creek, Ohio—Daniel Brower, Samuel Garber and Morgan Workman.

5 The committee to Sugar Creek, Ohio—R. H. Miller, Enoch Eby and Jacob Berkey.

6 The committee to North Manchester Church, Ind.—Jacob Berkey, George Hoover and Daniel Brower.

7 The committee to Northern Indiana to attend to troubles connected with Salem College—R. H. Miller, Enoch Eby, J. P. Ebersole and J. Quinter.

8 The committee to Linnville and Flat Rock congregations, Va.—Moses Miller, David Long, J. H. Lemon.



9 The committee to Berlin, Pa.—D. P. Saylor, J. W. Brumbaugh and J. Quinter.

10 The committee to Swanton Church, Ohio—Daniel Brower, John Brillhart and Morgan Workman.

11 The committee to Upper Dublin Church, Montgomery Co., Pa.—James Quinter, Wm. Hartzler, Henry Cassel and Samuel Harley.

12 The committee to Yellow Creek and Snake Spring Valley congregations, Bedford Co., Pa.—John S. Holsinger, Joseph Berkley and George Brumbaugh, of James Creek.

13 Inasmuch as the committee appointed for the Botetourt Church, Va., in 1876, have not settled the difficulties in said church, we appoint as a committee the following brethren to settle the difficulties: D. P. Sayler, Isaac Long, Solomon Garber, Jacob Wine and Martin Garber.

The Brethren of the Second District of Va. make application for the Annual Meeting in 1879, and the Brethren of the Southern District of Indiana make application to have it held with the State in 1878, and it was granted. Accordingly, the Lord willing, the next Annual Meeting will be held with the Brethren in Indiana, and the place will be announced in due time.

After a season of devotional exercises, the meeting adjourned.

Standing Committee: Jonathan Lichty, G. R. Baker, J. A. Murray, E. Eby, D. E. Price, J. R. Gish, D. B. Sturgis, J. S. Snowberger, R. H. Miller, Moses T. Bare, S. Garber, Jos. Kauffman, John B. Mishler, Henry Swadley, Samuel A. Fike, J. H. Lemon, Solomon Garber, John Wise, James Quinter, Samuel Harley, D. Long, D. P. Sayler, and Jacob Trostle.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1878.

### North Manchester, Ind.

On Monday, June 10th, Standing Committee met and organized by appointing Enoch Ebey, Moderator, James Quinter, Writing Clerk, R. H. Miller, Reading Clerk, and Samuel Zug, Door-keeper.

On Tuesday morning the public Council was opened with devotional exercises, and the reading of the 15th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The following subjects were then presented for consideration, and decided in the fear of the Lord, as indicated:

I. The propriety or necessity of making a change in the manner of holding the Annual Meeting was the first subject



presented to the meeting as it had been deferred from the Annual Meeting of 1877.

And there were also papers presented to the present meeting asking for a change, whereupon, a motion to re-adopt the plan of 1866, with the amendments already made, for holding the Annual Meeting and for the appointment of a committee to devise a way to more effectually reduce or prevent the assembling of a mixed multitude, and for the carrying out more fully of the plan of 1866, was moved and carried. The committee is to report to the Annual Meeting of 1879 and the report is to be subject to any disposition the Annual Meeting may make of it. It was also resolved that the Standing Committee nominate said committee.

II. What is known as the "Divorce question" was called up as a deferred question. And the following request was presented from a District Meeting: "We ask Annual Meeting through the District Meeting to take up the deferred question of Article 18, of Annual Meeting of 1877, and pass it so as to allow the innocent party membership in the Church."

The subject was again deferred.

III. Will this District Meeting petition Annual Meeting to reconsider Art. 8th of minutes of Annual Meeting of 1872, concerning the "Grange," as we are informed that it is not an oath binding or political association? It was agreed to forward the foregoing to the Annual Meeting and in addition to it, to ask the General Conference to give us the more objectionable features of "Grange," whether it be the oath or secretism.

Answer: We cannot re-consider said query because both the oath and the secretism are contrary to the Gospel. Matt. 10: 17; John 18: 20; 2 Cor. 6: 15-18; Eph. 4: 1-12.

IV. During the past year we learn from one of our Church papers, and otherwise, that a minister in the first degree was promoted to the second degree in the ministry, not by the congregation by which he was elected, but by another, though it was said it was done by the approbation of the congregation, which elected him.

This congregation decides it was wrong to do so. What says the District Meeting? The District Meeting adopts the answer of the congregation and orders it sent to the Annual Meeting.

Answer: This Annual Meeting decides that it is wrong to do so.

V. How is it considered, and what shall be done with a minister who travels from one place to another over the brother-



hood, using his influence against the order of the Church, by promising outsiders that if they unite with the Church, they need not wear the covering worn by the sisters, and that they can wear their hats, etc.? Also, telling them they can be baptized and hold their membership with the Church where he lived, and where such things are allowed?

Answer: The Church where a minister is known to be guilty of such wrong in public or in private speaking, shall take the testimony against him and send it in writing to the Church in which he has his membership, and if that Church will not stop him from going among other churches and using his influence against the order of the Brethren, then the elders of the adjoining churches shall be notified of the fact, and if they will not stop him, the church in which he has been guilty of such things shall call for a Committee from Annual Meeting and said Committee shall go to the church in which the offense has been committed, and call for the offending minister to meet them there, and they shall try his case as if they were in his own church, and if they find him guilty of such rebellion against the order of the general brotherhood, they shall take his office from him, and notify his church at home of the fact, unless he gives evidence of repentance and reformation.

VI. Which is according to the word of God, to ask an accused member whether he is satisfied with the decisions of the church on his pending case, BEFORE they are made known to it, or AFTERWARDS?

Answer: Afterwards.

VII. A son of a sister, whose husband is living, perished in the army: Is it right, under ANY circumstances for the sister to draw pension from the Government?

Answer: It is.

VIII. Would it not be well for the Brethren in District Meeting to consider the evil tendency of too much expensive feasting at funerals?

Answer: We think that Brethren everywhere should use their influence against it.

The Annual Meeting confirms the decision of the District Meeting.

IX. We ask the Annual Meeting through the District Meeting to stop the Brethren in publishing and selling books in favor or against the doctrine of Universal Restoration.

Answer: We grant the request herein asked for.

X. Will this District Meeting petition the Annual Meeting of



1878 to reconsider Art. 8, of Annual Meeting 1827, and Art. 11, of the Annual Meeting of 1828, and give us a more definite answer, or show by the Gospel that if we have common plain carpets on our floors, it will lead to elevation (pride)?

Answer: We consider the above queries and decide that plain carpets have no tendency to pride and elevation, and that they may be enjoyed by us; but fine and fancy carpets are not consistent with our humble profession, and should not be in our houses.

XI. To the Brethren in Annual Meeting assembled greeting: We the members of the Bush Creek Church, of Adams and Highland counties, of the State of Ohio, do ask of you through our District Meeting in Southern Ohio, to allow us the privilege of asking all questions to applicants for baptism, before going into the water.

Answer: We decide to make no change.

XII. Inasmuch as it is thought that brethren who solicit aid for some of the institutions gotten up among us, do sometimes take advantage of some of the members, should not such solicitors first apply to the elder of the church in which he wishes to solicit, that he may consult with his church in regard to the matter, that no advantage may be taken of any.

Answer: Deferred.

XIII. Inasmuch as Freemasons are under oath to always hail, ever conceal, and never reveal the secrets of the institution, even after abandoning the lodge, we hereby ask whether ex-masons are eligible to the ministerial office?

Answer: We think they are, as we receive them as brethren when they abandon the order, and if we receive them as such, we cannot with propriety deny their eligibility to the ministry, if they are otherwise considered worthy.

XIV. Is it according to the Gospel for a brother to administer the communion if he is not conformed to the order of the Church in his apparel and in the wearing of his hair?

Answer: It is not just right and brethren should not do so.

XV. Will this District Meeting petition Annual Meeting to use its influence toward getting the Brethren's Hymn Books at a lower figure and with better binding, for the good of the brotherhood?



Answer: The District Meeting having petitioned Annual Meeting as requested, the Annual Meeting grants the petition.

XVI. Are we justifiable in ordaining a brother who refuses to anoint any one who expects to die and even has no desire to get well, but will anoint for the restoration of health, he possessing the qualifications specified by the apostles?

Deferred.

XVII. Whereas Annual Meeting has heretofore left the Danish Mission to the care of Northern Illinois, recommending it to the support and sympathy of the entire brotherhood, and

Whereas, a Church has now been fully organized in Denmark, does this Annual Meeting consider it advisable for that Church to remain under the care of Northern Illinois, or does it properly belong to the direct care of the Annual Meeting?

Answer: The Church in Denmark shall be under the care of the Northern District of Illinois, but it is the duty of the whole brotherhood to help defray the expenses, that the said District does not have to bear more than its part or proportion of the expenses that must be met and provided for.

XVIII. Is it according to the gospel and the order of the Brethren for one ordained elder to ordain and install a brother who is in the second degree of the ministry to the full office of eldership, where the distance is so great that it is a hard matter to have two ordained elders present on such an occasion?

Answer: It is not according to the gospel and the order of the church to do so. See Acts 6: 6, 13: 2; 1 Tim. 4: 14.

XIX. This District Meeting petitions Annual Meeting to reconsider Art. 9th of minutes of Annual Meeting of 1876, and adopt instead of the present, the following, to-wit: The gospel allows no such privilege, and members doing so, do so on their own responsibility, and throw themselves into the judgment of the church.

Answer: We cannot make the change proposed.

XX. When a brother is expelled from the church and he thinks not altogether fairly, and makes an attempt to have a rehearing both by personal effort and by a committee recommended by the District Meeting, but fails in both instances, and finds himself too poor to go before the Standing Committee of Annual Meeting, or pay the expense of a committee of that body, what shall be done in his case?



Answer: He should call on the brethren who are acquainted with his case to help him. And as we learn there is such a case in Cherokee Church, Tenn., we appoint Henry Garst, Henry Brubaker and Abraham Malsbee, to go and settle the trouble.

The Committee appointed by the Annual Meeting of 1877 to visit and settle difficulties in the Upper Dublin Church, Pa., met said church in council on the 16th of August, 1877, and found serious troubles arising principally from the circumstances that members in the church belong to different secret societies. A charge to that effect was made, and the truth of the charge acknowledged by several. And while several acknowledged the charge, we had plain evidence that the spirit of secretism, or that an idea favorable to secret societies was too prevalent in the church. And knowing the popularity of secret societies in the world, and the growing tendency of this spirit if once tolerated in the Church, we feel that the maintenance of a consistent course of conduct with our principles, and the purity of the Church require a decided stand of the churches against secret societies. And though we found upon an examination of the case of secretism existing in the church, that there were some circumstances that were claimed to justify brethren belonging to secret societies, such as some of the officiating brethren in receiving members, admitted them on certain conditions, requiring of them no more than absenting of themselves from the public parading of such societies in their regalia, and allowing them to pay their dues and to receive what they are entitled to according to the rules of said societies. But if some brethren, and even elders, have showed a disposition to tolerate to some extent members in the church who belong to secret societies, we, the committee, considering the case bearing upon the general brotherhood, and the future of the brotherhood, feel it to be our duty to require of all those belonging to all secret societies, and among them the Order of Mechanics, a complete withdrawal from all connection with them, or they cannot be held as members of the Church, according to 2 Cor. 6: 14-18; John 18: 20; Eph. 4: 10-12.

There was also a charge that some members, after promising to abide the decisions of a certain committee called to settle difficulties in the church, became dissatisfied with said decision. Though we think the brethren alluded to in the charge should have considered the matter more fully before they accepted the report, yet looking at the whole subject, and hearing their reasons, we decide that under the circumstances they are not to be censured.



The charge against brother John Slingluff for inconsistency we consider was not sustained by sufficient evidence.

The foregoing report being submitted to the church, was rejected by the majority of the church.

James Quinter,  
Wm. Hartzler,  
Sam'l Harley,  
Henry Cassel,  
Committee.

Committees for churches having difficulty in them to settle:

For the Antioch Church, Huntington Co., Ind., John Wise, James Quinter, Jeremiah Gump, J. W. Cripe.

For the Rock Grove Church, Floyd Co., Iowa, John Wise, John Murray and Robert Badger.

For the Lost Creek Church, Miami Co., Ohio, R. H. Miller, Daniel Brower, Enoch Eby, C. G. Lint and James Quinter.

For the Eel River Church, Ind., R. H. Miller, Daniel Brower and David Bechtelheimer.

For the Cook's Creek Church, Va., David Long, C. G. Lint and Moses Miller.

For the Churches in California, R. H. Miller, J. Quinter and E. K. Beeghly.

For the Luney's Church, West Virginia, C. G. Lint, J. D. Trostle, Jacob Wine and Elias Auvil.

For the Lower Deer Creek Church, Indiana, Daniel Brower, John H. Caylor and George Hoover.

For making the proposed change in the manner of holding the Annual Meeting, R. H. Miller, Daniel Brower, Enoch Eby, James Quinter, C. G. Lint, Samuel Mohler and Samuel Garber.

For the Rock Creek Church, in Northern Illinois, Enoch Eby, J. R. Gish, Daniel Fry and John Emmert.

For the Beaver Creek Church, Green county, Ohio. The same committee as for the Lost Creek Church.

For the Painter Creek Church, Ohio, Samuel Mohler, Samuel Garber, and George Holler.

For the Huntington Church, Ind., R. H. Miller, Samuel Mohler, G. W. Cripe, and J. W. Stein.

For the Meyersdale Church, Pa., David Long, Moses Miller, J. S. Holsinger, J. W. Brumbaugh, and S. A. Fike.

A request from District No. 2, Virginia, for the Annual Meeting, for 1879 was presented and granted. So, the Lord willing, the next Annual Meeting will be with the brethren in Virginia. The necessary information will be given in due time.



In making arrangements to defray the expenses of the committee to California, it was decided that each congregation in the brotherhood shall pay one dollar. And it is suggested that those churches which are able and willing to do so, pay something more than their quota, that the amount collected may be quite sufficient. It is proposed that the churches in the East send their contributions to the office of the Primitive Christian; those in the West to office of the Brethren at Work; and those in Ohio to the office of the Vindicator. It is requested that the money be paid in by the first of September.

After a season of devotional exercises, the meeting adjourned.

Standing Committee.—Samuel Harley, Moses Miller, C. G. Lint, D. K. Saylor, Jeremiah Beeghly, C. Wertz, Martin Garber, D. B. Arnold, Elias Auvil, G. Irwin, J. P. Ebersole, Sam'l Garber, John Knisely, David Neff, R. H. Miller, Enoch Eby, J. R. Gish, Joseph Hendricks, J. F. Eikenberry, R. Badger, D. D. Sell, John Hershey, Jonathan Lichty, Isaac Miller.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1879.

Broadway, Va.

On Monday, June 2nd, the Standing Committee met and organized by appointing R. H. Miller, Moderator, James Quinter, Writing Clerk, Enoch Eby, Reading Clerk, Wm. Hertzler, Door-keeper.

On Tuesday morning the public council was opened with devotional exercises, and the reading of the 15th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The following subjects were then presented for consideration; and decided in the fear of the Lord as indicated:

I. As a committee had been appointed by the Annual Council of 1878 to devise a way to more effectually reduce or prevent the assembling of a mixed multitude, and for the carrying out more fully of the plan of 1866, and to report to the present meeting the result of their labors. This being unfinished or deferred business, it was the first in order to be acted upon, and accordingly the committee made the following report:

The committee appointed by the Annual Meeting of 1878 for preparing and presenting to the Annual Meeting of 1879 some plan for holding the Annual Meeting by which that adopted in 1866 may be more fully carried out, and the mixed multitude reduced, met at the house of Brother Christian Wine, on the 30th of May, 1879, in Rockingham county, Va., and upon a prayer-



ful deliberation of the work committed to us, have concluded to submit the following suggestions to this Annual Meeting:

First.—Inasmuch as there has been some difficulty in holding our Annual Meeting because of the amount of funds required to hold it, to obviate this difficulty, we recommend that each brother that attends the meeting shall pay one dollar; and though the sisters have nothing laid upon them, it is to be understood that they may do as they think proper in contributing to the support of the meeting.

Second.—We recommend that none but the brethren and sisters, and their special friends, shall receive their boarding in the general boarding tent, but that a tent, or if necessary or desirable, more than one be erected by reliable persons for accommodating such as are not members of the church with suitable boarding, and at a moderate price. And that this may be done, we recommend that the brethren have the oversight of all the boarding arrangements, and so fix them as will be most satisfactory to the church and to those for whose accommodations they are designed.

Third.—In order that a proper distinction may be made between such as are members and such as are not, we recommend that the members be furnished with tickets. These tickets shall be furnished by the proper authority at the place at which the meeting is to be held. And each church shall obtain from that authority as many tickets as shall be wanted by members going to Annual Meeting from that church.

Fourth.—The members of the church in which the meeting is held, shall be exonerated from paying the amount that the others shall pay. And the committee of arrangements shall decide who are entitled to exoneration besides the congregation in which the meeting is held, for services rendered.

Fifth.—We recommend that the committee of arrangements acting for the church in which the meeting is held, shall decide whether there shall be any preaching at the place of meeting.

Sixth.—We recommend that good arrangements be made for the Standing Committee and delegates, and that the tent for holding the council be no larger than will contain as many as can hear what is spoken. We also recommend that it be a sufficient distance from the boarding tent, that the council may not be annoyed by any noise. We also suggest the propriety of so arranging the council tent that the seats may be elevated from the center, but the seats only, and not the platform for the Standing Committee and delegates. We further recommend, that



in making the boarding tent, that there be an aisle through the whole length of the tent, separating the brethren from the sisters; and that the tables run from the aisle to the sides of the tent, and that there be a door in the side of the tent to each table for admitting the brethren on one side and the sisters on the other. All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. H. Miller,  
J. Quinter,  
D. Brower,  
E. Eby,  
S. Garber.

The above report was accepted by the council.

II. Would it not be advisable for the Annual Meeting to adopt a rule for the aggrieved, instead of petitioning the Annual Meeting for a committee to choose one deacon, and the church in defense to choose another deacon, and these two choose a third deacon as a committee to settle all difficulties except doctrinal points, said selection of deacons to be made out of the adjoining churches, thereby curtailing the expenses of Annual Meeting. But if the above is not adopted, would it not be advisable and consistent for Annual Meeting to send deacons to settle all difficulties, except doctrinal points, instead of sending elders and ministers, thereby saving their reputation?

Answer: We decide it best to make no new rules in regard to such cases as are referred to in the query.

III. Inasmuch as it was decided by last Annual Meeting that the expenses of the Danish Mission shall be paid by the general brotherhood, will not the District of Northern Illinois request Annual Meeting of 1879 to tell each district what its probable portion will be?

Answer: We agree to petition Annual Meeting to grant the above request?

Answer as given by Annual Meeting. As \$800 are needed to meet the expenses of said mission for the present year, this Annual Meeting requests each church in the brotherhood to pay \$2.00 the wealthier churches more and the poorer ones less, to make up said amount, that amount from each church being necessary the money to be sent to the treasurer of the Northern District of Illinois, C. P. Rowland.

IV. Is it agreeable with the Gospel and the rule of the Brethren, for a church or a committee to take from a minister the office of the first and second degrees of the ministry at home



in his own church, and then allow him the liberty to preach in other districts of the church, or in other congregations?

Answer: Not agreeable to the Gospel and order of the church to do so.

V. A request to reconsider Art. 24, of the Minutes of 1877. Deferred.

VI. We ask the Annual Meeting through the District Meeting to say what is to be done, as she says the double mode of Feet-washing is the general order of the Brotherhood, and that she cannot sanction the practice of different modes. Yet there are churches that know they are divided, and take a vote on Feet-washing and ascertain that the majority is in favor of the single mode, while a minority stands with the general order of the Brotherhood, and feels too conscientious to let it go. Now we plead with the Annual Meeting, through the District Meeting, to say what is to be done in such cases to avoid troubles.

Answer: We can see no better way to avoid such trouble than to follow the last decision of Annual Meeting which is to the effect that churches had better not change unless it can be done by unanimous consent. Where there is a small minority it is better to persuade it if it can be done, than to force that minority to yield.

VII. From 1 Cor. 10: 16, 17, and Gal. 3: 28, would it not be more consistent with the Gospel for sisters to break the bread and pass the cup of communion as the Brethren do? If so we ask the District Meeting and Annual Meeting to grant the privilege. This District Meeting cannot unanimously agree to ask a change, and therefore submit it to Annual Meeting.

Answer: This Annual Meeting decides that it cannot make any change.

VIII. Will the Middle District of Indiana request Annual Meeting to consider the impropriety of sending committees such a great distance to transact business unless necessity requires it, thereby incurring unnecessary expense upon those that are not able to pay said expenses?

Answer: We ask Annual Meeting to consider the impropriety of making unnecessary expenses. This answer passed the Annual Meeting with the understanding that the request of the District Meeting is granted.

IX. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has advised brethren to desist from holding Sabbath-schools where it causes trouble;



and in some instances a few brethren have prevented even a large majority from holding Sabbath-schools, upon the ground that they would not be reconciled to it, and, therefore an organization could not be effected without causing much trouble, will District Meeting consent to ask Annual Meeting to modify this restriction in such a way that a portion of a local church cannot prevent us from holding Sabbath-schools according to the direction of Annual Meeting, provided such schools are held according to gospel order and for the honor and glory of God. This District Meeting asks Annual Meeting not to let a small minority prevent a large majority from organizing Sunday-schools.

Answer: We advise the small minority to yield to the majority for the sake of peace. And we also would advise the majority to not over-rule the minority in a way that shows no regard for their feelings.

X. Has the elder alone, or with part, or with all of the official council, the right to withhold any question from the church that is agitating some of the members and thereby affecting the interest of the church? If not, what is to be done with such that do?

Answer: When the congregation wishes to act on a matter that is in harmony with the decisions of Annual Meeting and which affects the interest of the church, the official members ought not, and cannot prevent it from coming before the church, and if they do, the congregation has the privilege of calling in adjoining elders to assist.

XI. Since the Annual Meeting of 1878 has decided that ex-masons who abandon the order are eligible to the ministerial office, we ask this meeting to decide whether such ex-masons shall be required to disregard their oath, or whether they may continue to "hail" the institution of Freemasonry?

Answer: Yes, they shall be required to disregard their masonic oath with reference to hailing the institution of Freemasonry.

XII. Will this District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to decide whether it is according to the teaching of the Gospel and the long established order of the Brethren, for any branch of the church to employ a police force to keep order at their communion meetings or other meetings?

Answer: Only in extreme cases.

XIII. Is it right and according to the Gospel for brethren



to avail themselves of the homestead law at the expense of their creditors, with a promise of satisfying them at some future time.

Answer: We decide to refer this question back to the church from which it came, without an answer.

XIV. Is it right for a minority in a congregation to oppose the will of the majority in matters that have received the sanction of Annual Meeting?

Answer: Not right.

XV. Is it considered right and according to the Gospel and the old-established order of the Brethren to organize a mutual fire insurance company?

Answer: It is neither contrary to the Gospel nor the principles of the Brethren, provided the charter, if there is one, does not require the brethren to compromise any of our principles.

XVI. Whereas petitions were presented from Northwestern Ohio, Eastern Pennsylvania, Middle Pennsylvania and Virginia, as well as from Southern Ohio, requesting this Annual Meeting to prohibit the slanderous and schismatic articles from being published in the Progressive Christian and Deacon; therefore it is required that the editors of the Progressive Christian make an humble acknowledgment to the Annual Meeting for publishing erroneous statements in regard to church members; charging a part of the church with idolatry; stigmatizing some of its members with terms of reproach; ridiculing some of the peculiar practices of the church, and admitting into the paper inflammatory and schismatic articles some even from expelled members.

2. The editor of the Vindicator and of the Deacon are also required to make satisfactory acknowledgments for writing or publishing similar articles as the Progressive Christian.

3. That elder John Harshey, brethren James Ridenour and Howard Miller, be required to render satisfaction to the Annual Meeting for writing schismatic articles.

4. That the editors of all our periodicals be required hereafter not to admit into their papers any articles that will assail the doctrine of the church in regard to non-conformity to the world, the personal character of ministers, or any of its peculiar tenets or practices.

XVII. We, the Elk Lick congregation, ask the District Meeting to instruct the delegates to Annual Meeting to urge the mission work of evangelism upon said body, and that they be instructed to use all fair means to have the Annual Meeting accept



and encourage the work. This was agreed to by the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Deferred by Annual Meeting.

XVIII. Will this District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to modify Art. 12 of 1863 which compels churches to disown members that have not kept themselves as they ought to have done before they were married? We ask to have it modified so as to give each church the privilege to decide as they understand the case, as there is quite a difference in cases.

Answer: We decide to make no change on the foregoing question.

XIX. A woman marries and her husband leaves her and lives with his brother's wife, his wife sues at law, proves him guilty of fornication, obtains a bill of divorce, afterwards marries another man, and then makes application for membership. Under the circumstances can she, according to the Gospel, be received?

Deferred by Annual Meeting.

XX. We believe the church to be entirely united upon the principles of the doctrine of Christ. We all agree that Feet-washing, the Lord's Supper and Communion stand united, and that they were all given with equal force and demand equal obedience, and that there should be no act upon our part to disconnect them or place more stress, or give more honor to one than to another. This, then, being the case, should we not, in holding our communion, give thanks but once for the supper, just as we do for the bread and wine? We will just say that thanks should be given for the supper, then it should be eaten; likewise for the bread thanks should be given, and also for the cup. Then in conclusion of the exercises general thanks should be given for the privilege enjoyed. Would not this be more strictly conforming to the teaching of the Gospel?

Answer: We decide to make no change.

XXI. Inasmuch as members shall not be expelled without Gospel authority, (see Min. p. 372, Art. 1, and p. 295, Art. 34) what shall be done with elders and officers of a church, or a church itself, where members have been and are being expelled in violation of the above decision, and what course shall such expelled members pursue in order to have their cases heard, and to have justice done them?



Answer: They should call on the adjoining elders, and if they cannot get justice that way, then they should call for a committee from Annual Meeting.

XXIII. The Eastern District of Pa., and the Annual Conference, are hereby warmly and heartily entreated to give us the privilege to receive properly baptized persons without re-baptizing them if they are conscientious about receiving a second baptism. Some churches suffer if we must keep house according to the decision of the Minutes of 1848. Cannot the brethren be allowed to keep house according to former usage in case there is a strong majority so minded?

Answer: We decide to abide by the decision of 1848.

Committees for churches having grievances to settle:

1. To the Orrville church, Wayne county, O., Morgan Workman, J. P. Ebersole, Conrad Kahler.
2. The Welsh Run congregation, Md., Daniel Eckerman, Daniel Keller, Wm. Howe.
3. To the Otter Creek and Pleasant Hill churches, Macoupin county, Ill., R. H. Miller, J. Quinter, Jesse Calvert.
4. To the Bear Creek congregation, Montgomery county, O., R. H. Miller, J. P. Ebersole, Daniel Brower, Jacob Rife, David Bowman.
5. To the Eastern District of Md., R. H. Miller, C. G. Lint, J. Quinter, Daniel Keller, Wm. Hertzler.
6. To the English River, Middle Creek and Deep River churches, Iowa, John Wise, E. Eby, Stephen Johnson, J. F. Eikenberry, Samuel Musselman.
7. To Thornapple and Woodland churches, Mich., Daniel Brower, Jesse Calvert, J. P. Ebersole.
8. To carry out article 16th, E. Eby, George Hoover, Christian Bucher.

Resolved that the thanks of this meeting are due the B. & O. R. R. Co., and all other companies that have granted favors, for their generosity towards the members of our Fraternity in going to and from this meeting. Also to brother Howard Miller for his aid to the members attending the meeting; also to the brethren, sisters and friends of the Shenandoah Valley for the kind and liberal manner in which they have entertained us during our visit among them.

There having been no call made for the meeting for 1880, no place can be now named for it next year. When a call is made,



it will be announced through our periodicals. After prayer the meeting adjourned.

Standing Committee.—Andrew Hutchinson, Michael Sisler, E. K. Buechley, Edmund Forney, Joseph Hendricks, James R. Gish, Jesse Calvert, Joseph Amich, R. H. Miller, Isaac Miller, J. P. Ebersole, S. Z. Sharp, Abraham Flory, Mark Minser, Moses Miller, Christian Bucher, E. Auvil, Solomon Buckalew, J. H. Lemon, Isaac Long, Jacob Thomas, Jos. Wine, David Long.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1880.

Lanark, Ill.

On Monday, June 1st, the Standing Committee met and organized by appointing Enoch Eby, Moderator, James Quinter, Writing Clerk, John Wise, Reading Clerk and J. Flory, Door-keeper.

On Tuesday morning the public council was opened with devotional exercises, and the reading of the 15th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The following subjects were then presented for consideration, and decided in the fear of the Lord, as indicated.

I. Whereas the progress of the Annual Meeting of 1879 was unnecessarily delayed by the opposition of one elder to an answer, to the dissatisfaction of many, we ask this District Meeting to ask Annual Meeting to require a very small minority to yield to a very large majority in the Annual Meeting and also in our common council meeting.

Answer: Granted, unless it would be in cases where the majority would attempt a departure from the Word of God and the general order and usage of the Brotherhood.

II. What should be done by a church upon learning that a member has a former companion living from whom a divorce has been obtained because of fornication? Art. 8 of Minutes of 1857 does not remove the difficulty. There was another question, involving the same principle, from the Middle District of Pennsylvania. These questions were given to a committee of seven brethren for them to frame an answer to be submitted to the General Council. The committee submitted the following answer, which was adopted by the Annual Conference: We, your committee, after due deliberation, in the fear of the Lord, come to the following conclusion: We adopt the decision of Annual Meet-



ing of 1868, Art. 1, which reads as follows: We postpone this question indefinitely, but advise the churches to proceed cautiously when they have cases of this character to act upon.

Samuel Harley,  
J. W. Brumbaugh,  
D. B. Sturgis,  
George Holler,  
D. E. Brubaker,  
Jacob Rife,  
G. D. Zollars,  
Committee.

III. A request from the Western District of Pennsylvania, to call up and protect the petition of that district sent up to Annual Meeting of 1879, urging the work of evangelism upon said meeting, and instructing the delegates to use all fair means to have the Annual Meeting to accept and encourage said work, but which was deferred by Annual Meeting of 1879.

Upon the presentation of the above request, the following resolution was offered and passed by the Annual Meeting: Resolved, That we appoint a committee of five, whose duty it shall be to present a plan that will harmonize with other plans that have been favored by Annual Meeting and the one now in operation among us; but Annual Meeting shall not be financially responsible for any plan.

The committee reported the following plan which was adopted by the Annual Meeting:

1. We recommend this Annual Meeting to appoint five brethren, sound in the faith and fully alive to our missionary interests, to superintend the Domestic and Foreign missionary work of the general Brotherhood.

2. That those five brethren appoint out of their number such officers (Cor. Sec'y, Treasurer, etc.) as the nature of the work requires.

3. That the brethren be instructed to interfere in no way with any present individual church or district missionary efforts among our brethren.

4. That Annual Meeting advise that any Domestic or Foreign mission work of a general nature, like the Danish mission, now under the care of district council, be committed to the supervision of this Board.

5. That this meeting recommend that the fund now in the hands of the "Brethren's Work of Evangelism" be committed to the treasury of the Board of the General Conference.



6. That this Board be instructed to proceed no further in its appointments, etc., than the means in its treasury will justify.

7. That the officers of this Board be required to make an official report of their work, its condition, operation and wants, to each session of our General Conference, and that said report go into our regular minutes.

8. That every church in the Brotherhood be requested to appoint a solicitor in its own congregation to raise funds for this work and forward the same to the treasurer of this mission Board, at least every six months.

9. That this Board be instructed to proceed to its work at once as opportunity permits.

10. The Standing Committee of Annual Meeting be required to fill any vacancy that may occur in the Board from time to time, and that its members be elected every four years.

J. W. Stein,  
John Metzger,  
Hiel Hamilton,  
J. D. Livengood,  
J. W. Fitzgerald,  
Committee.

In connection with the foregoing, the following resolution was passed: Resolved, That the Danish mission be transferred to the Domestic and Foreign mission Board.

IV. Inasmuch as the Scriptures enjoin respect to the aged (see Leviticus 19: 32; 1 Tim. 5: 1,) we ask the District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting for our young official brethren, youthful editors, etc., to permit our aged brethren at Annual Meeting to occupy seats with and near the Standing Committee, where they have better opportunity to hear the proceedings, and also to give counsel.

Answer: We think the young should do so.

V. Inasmuch as we are opposed to adding or diminishing from the Word of God, would it not be best at our communion to give thanks before the breaking of bread, instead of giving thanks after it?

Returned to the church originating it, because it was not sufficiently explicit.

VI. We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to explain what is meant by the phrase, "In particular cases," in the Minutes of Annual Meeting of 1877, Art. 18.



Answer: "Particular cases" means when the brethren see any cause for so doing.

VII. Is it any violation of our Savior's law when members are to be received into the church to instruct them in the presence of the entire congregation, in all the principles of the Gospel as the church understands them, and then ask such persons whether they agree with the church in faith, if so, let them answer in the presence of the entire congregation, then proceed and take the council upon receiving them to find out whether there be any legal objection to receiving them, also in the presence of the entire congregation? Another question of similar import to this was presented, and the following answer was given.

Answer: Referred to last query, or No. 6. And where there is any cause or reason of objection known, it shall be made privately, or before the church only.

VIII. Do the brethren in general council endorse the practice of taking up public collections at church dedication services on Lord's day to pay for meeting-houses?

Answer: We think it not advisable to do so.

IX. What should be done with a brother who for years neglects to attend church; and after being visited repeatedly by the church and admonished to faithfulness, still refuses to assign any reason for his non-attendance, and will not agree to try to attend church?

Answer: They should be admonished again and again, and if they still persist in neglecting to attend church without a legal excuse, then the church should deal with them as disobedient members.

X. How is it considered by the brethren, if a brother be elected in the capacity of a land appraiser? Would it conflict with the Gospel or our profession?

Answer: We would advise that brethren had better not accept such an office.

XI. What shall be done with brethren that teach that Christ ate the legal Passover on the night in which He instituted the bread and wine?

Answer: Such teachers should cease to teach so, as it is not the teaching of God's Word. And if they will not cease doing so they should be dealt with according to Matthew 18th.

XII. What is to be required of official brethren and others



who signed and took an active part in circulating a petition asking Annual Meeting to come back to the time when there were no series of meetings, no Sabbath-schools, no supper on the table at Feet-washing, salaried ministry, colleges, nor single mode of Feet-washing? Such petitions purporting to have been authorized by a council of elders held in Miami Valley, Ohio, November 1879, and said elders denying the same. Such petitions have caused much hard feeling and disturbance in their mutinous and schismatic effects?

There were several papers of the same character before the meeting, and a resolution was passed by the meeting to appoint a committee of five to prepare something upon the subject for the General Council. Said committee made the following report which was accepted by the Council:

We, your committee, after carefully investigating the matter before us in the fear of the Lord, decide that the two elders, namely, David Y. Miller and Jacob Metzger, should be relieved of the office of eldership and make an acknowledgment to the church; and Harrison Rule also be relieved of his office and should make an acknowledgment to the satisfaction of the church; as it is evident they got up the petitions themselves and represented them as coming from the Miami Valley, Ohio, thereby deceiving those who signed them, which has caused a great deal of trouble and dissatisfaction; hence upon the ground of this deception and falsehood we base the foregoing decision. And we further decide that those who circulated these petitions shall make satisfactory acknowledgment. We also further decide that those who signed the petition be admonished to be careful in signing petitions that may affect the peace and union of the church.

Jacob Rife,  
D. B. Sturgis,  
George Holler,  
John P. Wolf,  
D. E. Price,  
Committee.

Upon the acceptance of the foregoing report, the following resolution was passed: Resolved, That the Standing Committee appoint a committee to go to the congregation referred to in the report, to carry out the decision of Annual Meeting. And if, after investigating the matter, the parties charged are found innocent, the committee will act accordingly. And if they are found guilty, may relieve them of their office.



XIII. Shall the majority of a church, some of whose members say that they would rather that their children would fish, hunt, play ball, and other like vain amusements on Sundays, rather than have them go to Sunday-school, prevent other brethren from collecting their children together in their school-house on the Sabbath day to teach them the Scriptures when such school is conducted in the order of Annual Meeting? We ask Annual Meeting not to let a majority prevent a minority from meeting at a school-house to teach the Scriptures in the capacity of a Sunday-school.

Answer: The request is granted.

XIV. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting decided in 1872, Art. 5, that the Gospel is a perfect law to govern the church in all things necessary to salvation, is it contrary, therefore, to the perfect law of the Gospel for sisters to wear modest hats? If so, give the Scripture forbidding sisters to wear them, and the Gospel authority for enforcing them to wear bonnets.

Answer: Inasmuch as the wearing of hats by our sisters is following the fashions of the world, it is in violation of the apostle's precept. "Be not conformed to the world," Rom. 12: 2, and of the following: "Abstain from all appearance of evil," Thess. 5: 22, and again, "Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever, therefore, will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."—Jas. 4: 4.

XV. Will the Southern District of Indiana ask Annual Meeting to grant the district the privilege of appointing committees to settle difficulties and therefore lessen the labor of Annual Meeting. But in case that said committee fails to settle the difficulty, then either party can appeal to Annual Meeting for a committee whose decision shall be final?

Answer: The District Meeting does ask Annual Meeting to grant said petition. The above petition was granted by Annual Meeting.

XVI. Is it according to the Gospel for a brother who indulges in the filthy fashion of the world in the use of tobacco, (except for medicinal purposes) to reprove a sister who indulges in the vain fashions of the world in dress?

Answer: No; both fashions being wrong. See Rom. 2: 1, 3, 21, 22, and Matt. 7: 3-5.

XVII. Since the Gospel plainly teaches that members should give according to that which they have and not according to that which they have not, and whereas some violate this Gospel pre-



cept by refusing to give their portion; and to remedy said violation the church, by more than four-fifths of a majority, adopts a system by which each member's portion is fairly determined, may not said church enforce said system under pain of excommunication according to the Gospel?—2 Cor. 8: 11-14.

Answer: As God accepts the free-will offering, we will not force brethren to comply with said system, but when it is plain that brethren refuse to give their proportion on account of a covetous or miserly disposition, they should be dealt with according to Matt. 18th.

XVIII. We request Annual Meeting through District Meeting, to reconsider Art. 8 of Minutes of 1849, and Art. 18 of 1851; also last clause of committee's report, Minutes, page 306; and if those brethren appointed cannot succeed in setting things in order according to the Minutes of Annual Meeting, they shall report such members or churches to Annual Meeting, who shall send a committee of faithful brethren, with authority to deal with them according to Matthew 18: 17.

The General Council passed the following resolution as an answer to the above request; whereas there is a considerable difference among the brethren regarding the propriety of observing the decisions of Annual Meeting; therefore,

Resolved, That all the brethren should labor as far as they can, to observe the decisions of Annual Meeting, and that the officers of the churches should labor carefully and judiciously to have the churches to carry them out until they are changed, if a change is desirable, and will bring us nearer the Gospel. In the above we have reference to decisions that pertain to the present condition and circumstances of the church, and not to those that time and circumstances have made obsolete.

XIX. We request Annual Meeting, of 1880, through the District Meeting of Northern Illinois, to reconsider Art. 6, in Minutes of 1868, and change it so as to give the Standing Committee the same liberty in electing its moderator, that it has in electing its clerks.

Answer: The Annual Meeting grants the change asked for.

XX. When a district or church with a satisfactory majority, decides to hold an election and all the members present come before the elders receiving the votes, and a majority say they have no choice, shall that majority render the election null and void, or shall the brother having the majority of votes cast be declared elected?



Answer: When the majority of the members of a church would come before the elders and say, "we have no choice," it would be best to pronounce no one elected

XXI. Will not this Annual Meeting adopt some means to meet the wants of the Danish Mission as the advice of Art. 3 of minutes of 1879 has not met the wants of the past year, because some of the churches have failed to comply with said demand?

Answer: Each member of the Standing Committee shall notify each church in his State District that he is appointed to receive what it will contribute to the Danish Mission.

XXII. A sister departs from her unbelieving husband and procures a bill of divorce on the ground of cruel treatment, can she retain her membership in the church, while holding in her possessions the bill of divorce, providing she remains unmarried?

Answer: Yes, she can.

XXIII. The following petition came to Annual Meeting from the District of Southern Ohio:

Dear Brethren:

We do hereby most earnestly petition the Annual Meeting, through the District Meeting, to consider the present condition of the church in her confused and divided state, and to make an effort by which may be removed the fast element from among us, which is the cause of the troubles and divisions in the church.

Now, as all former efforts have failed—in sending query after query to the Annual Meeting, the exercising of patience and forbearance from time to time, all of which have accomplished but little, the so-called fast element gaining ground year after year, and one innovation after another being introduced among us, which, if suffered to continue, will lead the church off into pride and the popular customs of the world and the other denominations, we think and feel the propriety of a renewed effort on our part to accomplish the object of this petition.

We in Southern Ohio have, of late years, felt and observed the element more than ever; and in serious meditation have we felt the weight of Paul's language in 1 Cor. 1: 10, and in 1 Peter 5: 12. We, as elders of the church, over which the Holy Ghost, we trust, has made us overseers, do feel that duty demands of us to make this effort, that we may have order, peace and union again restored among us. We offer the following as the remedy, in our wisdom and judgment, whereby a union can be effected, namely: To hold and maintain the ancient and apostolic order of the church in her humility, simplicity and non-conformity to the world. And we feel that we can no longer suffer or tolerate those innovations in the church of Christ. The causes of the troubles must be removed before peace and union can be restored; and among some of these causes are the high schools among us, popular Sunday-schools with their conventions and celebrations,



long protracted meetings and the way they are generally conducted, by singing revival hymns and giving invitations to rise or come forward; a salaried ministry, and the single mode of Feet-washing.

Now the things here named we do not regard as being in harmony with the spirit of the Gospel, neither are they in harmony with the ancient and apostolic order of the church; and when we speak of the ancient order of our church, we have reference also to non-conformity to the world, not only in dress, but in the building and fancy painting of our houses, barns, etc. after the custom of the world, the gaudy and costly finish put on them, and fine furniture, etc., to set off our rooms and parlors, after the fashions of the world, together with fine and costly carriages, etc. In these things we confess that Southern Ohio has gone too far out of the way: and we hope will be willing to reform and make and sacrifice for Jesus' sake.

1. With regard to high schools among us, we fear they will greatly operate against the simplicity of the Gospel of Christ, as well as create or cultivate the desire for an educated ministry, which is not in harmony with the teachings of Christ and the apostles, nor with the ancient views of the Church. Paul says: "Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth." 1 Cor. 8: 1. "Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate." 1 Cor. 1. Again: "Be not wise in your own conceits." Rom. 12: 16. The views of our old brethren were in perfect harmony with the Gospel as regards this matter, as will be seen by reference to the following queries and decisions:

Annual Meeting of 1831, Art. 1: "Whether it was considered advisable for a member to have his son educated at a college? Considered not advisable, inasmuch as experience has taught that such very seldom will come back afterward to the humble ways of the Lord."

Annual Meeting of 1852, Art. 22: "How is it considered by the brethren, if brethren aid and assist in building great houses for high schools, and send their children to the same? Considered that brethren should be very cautious, and not mind high things, but condescend to men of low state." Rom. 12: 16.

Annual Meeting of 1853, Art. 28: "Is it right for a brother to go to college or teach the same? Considered, that we would deem colleges a very unsafe place for a simple follower of Christ, inasmuch as they are calculated to lead us astray from the faith and obedience of the Gospel." And in 1857, when the subject again came up, the answer of the Annual Meeting is definitely given thus: "IT IS CONFORMING TO THE WORLD. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth."

Thus we see that high schools were not permitted to come into the church for at least twenty-seven years after they were first urged.

2. Sabbath-schools, we consider to be more of human origin than by command of Christ or his apostles, and hence are more of a worldly custom than of Gospel principle and authority; are not in harmony with the apostolic order of the church, the principles of the Gospel, and were never sanctioned by the Annual



Meeting, in the way many are and will be conducted. Paul says: "Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6: 4. This command is given to PARENTS, and not to others.

3. Protracted or revival meetings, in the way they are generally conducted, are, we claim, not in harmony with the old order and the apostolic rules of the church. "And Paul, as his MANNER WAS, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures." Acts 17: 2. Again; "And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath," etc. Again: "And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath." Acts 13: 42. "And the next Sabbath-day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God." Verse 44.

4. A salaried or paid ministry is also against the apostolic order. Hear Paul on this subject: "I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel; yea, ye yourselves know that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me." Acts 20: 34. "What is my reward, then? verily, that when I preach the Gospel I may make the Gospel without charge, that I abuse not my power in the Gospel." 1 Cor. 9: 18. Again: "Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought, but wrought with labor and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you." 2 Thess. 3: 8. And when Christ sent forth his disciples he forbade them carrying or providing gold or silver for their purses; these were to constitute NO PART of the considerations of the labors before them.

5. And with regard to the subject of Feet-washing, what method had we best adopt to provide against the troubles growing out of having different modes of performing the ordinance among us? We hereby recommend and pray that the decision of 1872 be re-adopted by this meeting. The subject was brought before the elders of that Annual Meeting, a committee had been appointed and a careful investigation made for a final decision of the matter and after this special investigation and a thorough examination of this matter, the Annual Meeting decided to "make no change whatever in the mode and practice of Feet-washing, and stop the further agitation of the subject." And in 1876, when it again came up, it was decided that "no church can change from the double to the single mode on the authority of the Annual Meeting."

Now, the decision of 1872 should, we think, have forever settled the Feet-washing question, and to this we desire to hold as the order of the church, unless we can be convinced that the double mode is wrong, or that Christ will be pleased with different modes and practices of worship in his church. All do admit that the command is fulfilled by the ancient or general order, and why not abide by it? Why should we have such troubles in these last days with an ordinance that has so long stood under the blessings of God while the church prospered.

Dear brethren, in order to have permanent peace and union restored—which we hope all are praying for—we will have to deny ourselves of the recent inventions among us, and fall back and unite upon the principles of the Gospel and the ancient prin-



ciples and apostolic order of the church. Upon this we were all once united and satisfied until the innovations herein alluded to crept in among us, which are now disturbing our peace. Can we not, dear brethren, all acknowledge that we were not watchful and guarded enough in suffering those things to come into the church, and repent for our want of faithfulness? FORBEARANCE, we think, is the door through which these things came into the church, one after another, and now, it seems, there is no door to be found by which to get them out again.

Do not, dear brethren, find fault with us, and conclude we are taking too much upon us. We have with sorrowful hearts looked upon the very fast drift and movement of things in the Church; and as all efforts to exterminate from the church the things which mar our peace have thus far failed, we saw no better course than the one presented. Our plain decisions have been disrespected and over-ruled, and if this state of things shall continue to exist we will lose all our power in the controlling of the church. We for the present can see no better plan by which to restore brotherly harmony and peace than to direct our efforts at the CAUSES from whence the disunion arises.

Now we pray, dear brethren, that this may receive your prayerful and serious consideration; and our wish and desires are that it may pass the Annual Meeting without any compromise.

Conrad Brumbaugh,  
Samuel Garber,  
Jacob Miller,  
David Murray,  
George V. Siler,  
Emanuel Miller,  
Joseph Arnold,  
Emanuel Hoover,  
Abraham Flory,  
David Brumbaugh,  
William Cassel,  
Samuel Murray,  
Nathan Haywood,  
Jesse Royer.

Answer: The elders of Southern Ohio having gotten up this petition to Annual Meeting, and being very urgent that it be sent up, we in District Meeting, agree to send it up, but we as a district cannot unitedly give it our approval.

The following resolutions and explanations embody the answers of the General Council to the petition:

Whereas, Our beloved Fraternity has been considerably disturbed by brethren holding extreme views, some being disposed to enforce more rigorously the order of the church in regard to non-conformity to the world, and the principle of non-conformity to the world in giving form to our custom than has commonly been done by our ancient brethren; while some on the other extreme would abandon the principle of non-conformity so far as that principle has anything to do with giving form to our costume; and

Whereas, The principle of non-conformity in giving form to



our costume, as well as in everything else, has been a peculiar characteristic of our Fraternity, and is so stated in our written history, and has had its influence with our non-swearing and non-combatant and our general principles identifying our Fraternity with the Primitive and Apostolic church in preserving us from the extravagant expenditures which both the religious and secular world have fallen into, and in obtaining for us as a body the character of simplicity, honesty, purity, and uprightness in the world; and

Whereas, It is thought by many, and even so declared, that as a body we are opposed to all improvement and progress; and

Whereas, Contention and strife in the church are great obstacles in the way of both its holiness and its usefulness; therefore.

Resolved, First, that we will labor in the spirit of the Gospel and brotherly love to maintain the principle of non-conformity in giving form to our costume, and in every way that the recognized peculiarities of our Fraternity require.

Resolved, Secondly, that while we declare ourselves conservative in maintaining unchanged what may justly be considered the principles and peculiarities of our Fraternity, we also believe in the propriety and necessity of so adapting our labor and our principles to the religious wants of the world as will render our labor and principles most efficient in promoting the reformation of the world, the edification of the church and the glory of God. Hence while we are conservative, we are also progressive.

Resolved, Thirdly, that brethren teaching through the press or ministry or in any way sentiments conflicting with the recognized principles and peculiarities of our Fraternity, shall be considered offenders, and be dealt with as such. And to specify more particularly the subjects named in the petition we offer the following as an answer:

1. Inasmuch as there exists a wide-spread fear among us that the brethren's high schools are likely to operate against the simplicity of the Gospel of Christ, as also likely to cultivate the desire for an exclusively educated ministry, to guard therefore these schools from producing these effects, we think the Principals of these schools should meet and adopt rules that will prevent such tendency, and said rules be in harmony with the principles of Annual Meeting.

2. Sabbath-schools, when held in the spirit of the Gospel, may be made a means of bringing up our children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord." But should have no picnics and celebrations or any vain things of the popular Sabbath-schools of the day connected with them.

3. All meetings for worship should be held as our stated or regular meetings are held, and we be cautious not to use such means as are calculated to get persons into the church without a Gospel conversion,—such as over persuasion or excitement, simply to get them into the church, but use the Gospel means to get them to turn away from sin.

4. In regard to a paid ministry, we believe that it is not right in the sense for brethren to go and labor for churches in the



hope of receiving money for service, and the offer of money as an inducement to brethren to preach, but to poor ministers who are faithful both in the doctrine and practice of the church, we would encourage giving towards their necessities; as also defraying the expenses of traveling in attending to church interests.

5. Inasmuch as our old fathers have always admitted the validity of the two modes of Feet-washing, and as much as we desire a more perfect union in this matter we cannot condemn either mode as being invalid. And inasmuch as former decisions have failed to settle the question to the satisfaction of all, we advise more forbearance and liberty to the conscience of our brethren in this matter, because both have been practiced among us and the best way to stop the agitation of this question, is to allow the same liberty of conscience for our brethren that we ask for ourselves. But this shall not be construed to annul the present decisions and advice of Annual Meeting.

XXIV. Will the Middle District Meeting of Iowa remonstrate against any District Meeting changing the time of holding Annual Meeting hereafter, for we favor the old established time? The District Meeting granted the above request.

Answer: The following is the answer of the Annual Meeting: Let the Annual Meeting grant the liberty to change, if the change is wanted.

XXV. Is it according to the spirit of the Gospel and order of the Brethren, when a committee is investigating difficulties in a church, for the committee to confine each party to three witnesses, especially to the accused who were not informed of the charges to the investigation?

Answer: Not right according to the spirit of the Gospel and order of the Brethren.

XXVI. When difficulties in a church have been disposed of by a legal course of procedure, all implicated parties making satisfactory acknowledgments and all the members present openly and audibly, one by one, expressing themselves satisfied, does Annual Meeting authorize committees (sent by that body) to hear and investigate such matters at the request of only a few of those members that expressed themselves, as above stated, and in opposition to the body of the church? And if so, what encouragement have churches to make every effort to settle their own difficulties, which has been the advice of Annual Meetings?

Answer. Let the committee determine their duty according to the facts before them.

XXVII. Has any committee of elders a right, according to Paul's instructions to Timothy, (1 Tim. 5: 19) to receive accusa-



tions against an elder without witnesses? And if so, is it right for them after going through an investigation of such accusations, and finding them unsustained to drop the matters without asking anything of the accuser?

Answer: No.

XXVIII. Inasmuch as committees from Annual Meeting have caused great dissatisfaction in their proceedings with churches where they have made investigations, and for the preservation of the peace of the church, and the confidence in our Annual Meeting as well as the committees appointed by the same. And that we might have as the Lord's people anciently had, but one measure and one weight for all. Also do to others as we would have them do to us. In consequence of the above, we humbly pray and petition the District Meeting and Annual Meeting of 1880 to grant the following:

That when a committee is obtained through Annual Meeting or otherwise, that a reasonable length of time prior to the investigation which is to be made by said committee, the accusers shall make known to the accused all the charges that are to be investigated, so the accused may be prepared to defend the case in the same degree of fairness, that members generally have in offences committed against the church.

Answer: The District Meeting asks Annual Meeting to grant the request. Annual Meeting grants the request.

The following report of the committee appointed by the Annual Meeting of 1878 to visit and settle difficulties in the Lost Creek church, Miami county, Ohio, was presented to the General Council and accepted:

The committee appointed by Annual Meeting to visit the Lost Creek Church, Miami county, Ohio, met the church in council on the 13th of August, 1878, and upon the committee presenting itself to the church two of its members, namely, Daniel Brower and James Quinter, were rejected by brother Davy. And as but four of the committee were present, brother Lint not having come, it was found necessary for the committee to examine the character of the objections made to the members objected to. The objection made to brother D. Brower was this: Brother Davy charged him with presiding over a case in a council meeting of the Grove church, and dismissed him (brother Davy) without informing him of the circumstance. Upon the examination of the foregoing objection, and the testimony adduced, it plainly appeared to the committee that brother Davy did not hold the office of bishop at the time of the council meeting above alluded to, and therefore he did not need to be informed that he was relieved



of his charge for he was relieved of that when his membership was taken from him. Hence we decide the objection of brother Davy to brother D. Brower as a member of the committee, is invalid.

The objection to brother Quinter was as follows: He, brother Davy, charged brother Quinter with refusing in an unkind manner to eat and lodge with him, and also with saying he was guilty. He also charged him with saying he could not now wish him well. The charges were denied by brother Quinter and were not proven by brother Davy. And though we do not believe the charges proved or true, nevertheless, wishing to show brother Davy fairness in every possible way we can, decide that brother Quinter shall not help to decide the case when the decision is made. But we retain him on the committee.

There being no valid objections to the committee, it offered itself to the church and was rejected, the vote standing sixteen against the committee and seven for it. Then the committee proceeded to hear the charges, thinking the case was such that it was called upon to proceed, though the church rejected it. The objections urged against the committee were as follows: First, because it was not legally asked for and hence illegally granted. Secondly, because the proceedings of the church against him were illegal, and, therefore, the committee had no right to investigate the case. Brother Davy, after stating his objection to the committee, left the meeting and went home, and the committee proceeded to obtain the facts, as far as it possibly could, in regard to existing difficulties. There was a church meeting held February 17th, 1877, at which brother Davy was expelled from the church. And in regard to this church meeting we obtained the following facts: First, the officers of the church sent two official brethren to obtain certain letters from sister Mary Whiting, written by brother Davy. After those letters were obtained the officers of the church sent two brethren to investigate the case more fully, preparatory to bringing it before the church. After the investigation by the official brethren, one of them visited brother Davy and reported the charges to him verbally, and agreed with him to call a council meeting, he choosing one of the elders. Then the day before the said council the elders sent two brethren to brother Davy to notify him to attend the council meeting. He said to them that he would not attend. Said council meeting was held in the presence of a number of elders, when eighteen charges were preferred against brother Davy.

Brother Davy not being present, the church proceeded to investigate them. And upon the investigation thereof, sufficient testimony was found to require his expulsion from the church in the judgment of the council. There were present in this council three churches, two besides the one in which brother Davy resided, he having the oversight of them all. This being the case, because he had requested at a former meeting that they all should vote, they accordingly did so. Then there was a council meeting held on the 14th of April, 1877, at which brother Davy was restored to his membership in the church. There was also a council meeting held January 10th, 1878, caused by brother Davy bringing a charge against elders from a distance imposing upon the



Lost Creek church and adjoining elders. But on the morning of the meeting brother Davy withdrew the above named charge. There were present at this council eleven elders, and brother Jos. N. Kauffman was chosen foreman, and he proposed to investigate the proceedings of the council held on the 14th of February, 1877, at which Bro. Davy was expelled. He informed the elders from a distance that the adjoining elders only would act with the council in the investigation, and that the elders from a distance would take no part in it, only when called upon, though they were the elders which worked with the church when brother Davy was expelled. Although brother Kauffman found objections among the elders to said investigation, he proceeded to make a partial investigation of the proceedings of said church meeting, in the following manner: He says the brethren were not sent by the church to investigate and report the charges, while our investigation proves that they were sent by the officers of the church, which is the general order of the brethren in Ohio. He also says that a visit was not sent brother Davy by the church; while our investigation shows that a visit was sent by some of the elders, and that one of the brethren visited him, and gave him the privilege of choosing one elder to assist in the meeting, and he did so. And farther, he, brother Kauffman, says that the charges were not read to brother Davy that he might be prepared to meet them; while our investigation proves that the charges were given to him verbally, for the reason that he said it was not necessary that they should be read. Again, in regard to the testimony, brother Kauffman says the brethren who were sent to make the investigation, and who took the testimony in writing, did not have the witnesses to sign their testimony; while our investigation proves that all the main witnesses came to the council and gave their testimony before the church. Furthermore, when brother Kauffman inquired upon what grounds brother Davy was expelled, he was answered that it was upon the eighteen charges preferred against him. Among them being the charge of adultery. But when the foregoing answer was given, brother Kauffman instead of investigating any of those charges, dropped the matter of investigation, and in a divided and confused state, some of the elders saying stop this matter and get a committee from the Annual Meeting. But brother Kauffman and brother Davy said you must have a decision or you cannot get a committee from Annual Meeting. At this stage of the meeting, brother Davy said the accused and the accuser could not sit in judgment on their case. Whereupon brother Kauffman referred to the minutes, showing what relations should withdraw from the council. This was applied to the official brethren who were sent to investigate the evidence in the case, and their relatives which caused a number of members to leave the council, much grieved and dissatisfied with the proceedings. In a confused condition the vote was now taken upon the question, "were the proceedings of the other meeting right or wrong?" and decided to be wrong by a large majority, and Bro. Davy was declared by Bro. Kauffman to be in his full office.

Inasmuch as the committee was rejected by a majority of the church, Bro. Davy being with that majority, we could not get a



full investigation from that side, because they would not give their matter into our hands, until we came to the investigation of the council held January 10th, 1878, there brother Kauffman acting for brother Davy, presented that side.

We decide in reference to the legality of the church meeting of Feb. 14th, 1877, at which brother Davy was expelled, that there was but one point of illegality in it, and that was that three churches voted in the decision in the matter, and that was because brother Davy requested that they should do so, and as he did so, he cannot justly object to that illegality, as it would be taking advantage of his own wrong, and therefore the decision of that meeting is valid. We also decide in reference to the church meeting of January 10th, 1878, which purports to be an investigation of the legality of the council at which brother Davy was expelled, that its proceedings were so partial and unfair, in that it pretended to investigate the work of a former meeting, and debarred seven elders from having anything to say, only when called upon, and thus preventing them from making a defense while their own work was being investigated, and in not allowing them to say anything as to the manner of investigation, or as to what was to be investigated. And as brother Kauffman took the whole matter thus into his hands, such a course cannot but be regarded as unjust and even tyrannical. And in comparing his investigation with ours as we have already done, we decide that his investigation was partial and failed to present the facts in their proper light before the church. As the authority he assumed over the elders and their work, and the course he pursued in said meeting, gives a just cause of aggrievance, we decided he make an acknowledgment for the same.

We further decide that the foregoing facts in regard to the council of Jan. 10th, 1878, are such as show it plainly to have been contrary to the order of our Brotherhood and the principles of the Gospel, and therefore the decision of it is null and void, and hence brother Davy stands in the church as he did before said council, that is, as a private member.

(Signed by)

R. H. Miller,  
Enoch Eby,  
Daniel Brower,  
James Quinter,  
Committee.

The committee appointed by the Annual Meeting of 1879 to visit and settle difficulties in Eastern Md., succeeded in its labors in all the churches but one. The following part of its report refers to unsettled difficulties, and it was presented to the Annual Meeting and accepted.

And in regard to the second committee composed of the three following elders, namely: Isaac Pfoutz, D. K. Sayler, A. H. Senseny, and the two following brethren in the second degree of the ministry, namely: Jesse Roop and Henry Sayler, whom they constituted elders in trying the proceedings of the former committee, we found, first, that they were not adjoining elders. Second,



that they were not called by the church. Third, that they did not notify the parties opposed to D. Gibbin. Fourthly, they did not give any notice to the committee whose work they designed to investigate. Fifth, they gave no public or general notice to the church of their meeting, and went on and tried the case in the absence of all the parties interested but D. Gibbin and his friends. And though they have rejected us as a committee we decide that they make satisfaction to the former committee, and those who brought charges against D. Gibbin. And if they do not, we recommend that the Annual Meeting send a committee here to enforce submission to its authority.

The committee sent a request to the oldest elder in the Beaver Dam church to appoint a council meeting for the further investigation of the troubles in the churches in Eastern Maryland. And though the elder in his reply to us gave us to understand that he would ascertain from his church whether a council would be called, it appeared that he did not consult the church, but that a council was refused us upon the authority of the official members, without the church being informed of our wish, or being consulted. And in view of the fact that we were refused a council in said church, and as we found a great want of love and union among the brethren of Eastern Maryland, we recommend the Annual Meeting of 1880 to send a committee there with full authority to set in order the things that are wanting.

R. H. Miller,  
James Quinter,  
William Hertzler,  
C. G. Lint,  
Daniel Keller,  
Committee.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to the citizens of Lanark and vicinity for their unbounded hospitality; to the several churches for their generosity in opening their houses to our ministry; to the Railroad companies for their liberality in granting greatly reduced rates, and to Dr. Fahrney, of Chicago, for his indefatigable labors in affording safe transit through the city; to Messrs. Everets, Martindale and Flemming, employees of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Co., for courtesies extended; to brother Howard Miller for ample railroad arrangements; to the Committee of Arrangements for the accommodation offered and the system maintained throughout the meeting.

Whereas, The present ticket arrangement does not give general satisfaction; therefore

Resolved, First, That sisters and their special female friends shall pay fifty cents for their tickets.

Resolved, Second, That in addition to regular tickets, meal tickets at fifteen cents each shall be kept for sale.



A resolution was passed constituting the Standing Committee and Delegates a body to elect the Missionary Board, and the following Board was elected:

J. Quinter, of Pa.; S. T. Bosserman, of Ohio; Joseph Leedy, of Indiana; E. Eby, of Illinois, and D. E. Brubaker, of Iowa.

The following is the organization of the Board with the addresses of the members: E. Eby, Lena, Stephenson county, Ill., Pres.; S. T. Bosserman, Dunkirk, Hardin county, Ohio, Sec'y; J. Quinter, Huntingdon, Pa., Treas.

The following committees were appointed to settle grievances in churches:

1. A committee for the Urbana church, in Champaign Co., Ill., E. Eby, J. Wise and J. Metzger.
2. A committee to the Ephrata church, in Lancaster Co., Pa., Moses Miller, Christian Bucher and Henry Cassel.
3. A committee to the Conemaugh church, in Cambria Co., Pa., J. Quinter, J. W. Brumbaugh and L. Kimmell.
4. A committee to the Astoria church, in Fulton Co., Ill., R. H. Miller, D. France and J. R. Gish.
5. A committee to the Ashland church, Ashland Co., O., R. H. Miller, E. Eby and J. Calvert.
6. A committee to the Antietam church, Franklin Co., Pa., R. H. Miller, J. Quinter and C. G. Lint.
7. A committee to Macoupin Co., Ill., R. H. Miller, J. Quinter, J. Calvert, E. Eby and J. Wise.
8. A committee to Rock Creek church, Whiteside Co., Ill., E. Eby, J. R. Gish and J. J. Emmert.
9. A committee to the Arnold's Grove church, Carroll Co., Ill., E. Eby, D. E. Price and D. Deardorff.
10. A committee to North Manchester, Ind., R. H. Miller, D. Brower and J. Rife.
11. A committee to Sandbrook, New Jersey, D. P. Saylor, R. H. Miller, Moses Miller, C. Bucher and S. Harley.
12. A committee to the Eastern District of Md., R. H. Miller, J. Quinter and C. G. Lint.
13. A committee to the Massissinaway church, Ind., J. Rife, George Cripe and J. Kaylor.
14. A committee to Eel River church, Ind., J. Reiff, G. Cripe and Joseph Leedy.
15. A committee to Yellow Creek, and Elkhart Valley churches, Ind., J. Rife, D. Bechtelheimer and Jos. Leedy.
16. A committee to Sugar Creek and Lafayette churches, O., R. H. Miller, E. Eby and J. Calvert.



17. A committee to Buffalo Valley church, Pa., to carry out a resolution of Annual Meeting of 1879, in regard to brother P. Beaver, R. H. Miller, J. Quinter and Grabill Myers.

There having been no call for the Annual Meeting of 1881, no place can now be named. When the brethren in some part of the Brotherhood conclude to take the meeting, the announcement will be made through the papers.

A short session on Friday morning, the fourth day of the Council, closed the labors of Annual Meeting of 1880; and apparently a strong and general impression prevailed among the brethren that our Council was one of unusual interest, importance and benefit to the Brotherhood. And after a grateful acknowledgment to our heavenly Father for his help and goodness to us during our meeting, it was closed with much brotherly love prevailing.

Standing Committee:—C. Bucher, J. Quinter, L. Kimmel, D. P. Sayler, D. Long, P. Nininger, J. H. Lemon, J. Thomas, P. J. Brown, J. P. Ebersole, J. Kauffman, J. Calvert, D. Bechtelheimer, R. H. Miller, E. Eby, D. Deardorff, J. Wise, J. S. Snyder, J. Thomas, C. C. Root, S. S. Mohler, J. Lichty, M. F. Bare, I. Miller, J. Berkey.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1881.

Ashland, Ohio.

On Monday the 6th of June, the Standing Committee met and organized by appointing Enoch Eby, Moderator; James Quinter, Writing Clerk, John Wise, Reading Clerk, and Samuel Myers, Door-keeper.

On Tuesday morning the brethren assembled for public council, and after the usual introductory services of a devotional character, the business of the meeting was entered upon, and the following questions were presented for consideration, and in the fear of the Lord decided as stated.

I. Inasmuch as Annual Meeting has again and again decided in favor of plainness and uniformity in dress for both brethren and sisters, and recommending to the churches to enforce it, especially upon the ministers, and after all the counsel of Annual Meeting there is a great lack of uniformity in dress on the part of some members, ministers and deacons who travel and move from place to place, and do not regard the plain uniformity as recommended by Annual Meeting. The question is, is it right,



according to the Gospel and the order of the church, especially official members, to get a certificate of membership who move from one arm of the church to another, and who do not observe the authorized decisions of Annual Meeting?

Answer: This Annual Meeting decides that we cannot grant a good certificate to such members, especially the officials.

II. We request Annual Meeting to permit the elders present not belonging to the Standing Committee to open the meeting in their absence after their first meeting, and thus relieve them of much labor.

Answer: We believe it would be proper for any elder or brethren to open the meeting with devotional exercises, but we think the Standing Committee should be present.

III. A brother was baptized while sick, not by his own request, but by the over-persuasion of his friends, and as soon as he began to recover, regretted it, and became dissatisfied, thinking his baptism illegal and unsatisfactory to himself, and wishes to be baptized. Can it be done consistent with the Gospel?

Answer: If his mind was affected to such an extent through sickness that he could not exercise faith and repentance, he might be re-baptized on his subsequent profession of faith and repentance.

IV. The following papers came from different parts of the Brotherhood, and were, by action of the council, submitted to a committee of brethren to report upon them:

Inasmuch as brother H. R. Holsinger has been admonished by the Annual Meeting again and again according to the Minutes of Annual Meeting, to cease to publish articles conflicting with the general order of the old brethren and good feeling of the church, and still continues to do the same, we now request Annual Meeting to deal with him according to Matt. 18, and the decision of Annual Meeting, either directly or by a committee, and if he does not hear the church, hold him as a heathen man and a publican.

Is it right for brethren to publish papers like the Progressive Christian and Vindicator, creating and fostering strife by publishing articles against the established order of the church, and if not right, what is to be done with brethren who publish such a paper or papers?

Answer: Not right for brethren to publish such a paper or papers, and any brother or brethren that publish such a paper or papers shall make an humble acknowledgment for so doing, and



promise not to publish such articles any more in the future, said acknowledgment and agreement to be published in their paper or papers.

Is District Meeting favorable towards calling the attention of Annual Meeting to the character of the paper called *Progressive Christian*, and require brother Holsinger, its present editor, to cease publishing articles of criticism on Annual Meeting, its decisions and its work among the churches through its organized committee; and cease publishing his own articles, or those of others advocating measures calculated to subvert the principles and rules of order in our Brotherhood in matters of plainness of dress, and against the exercise of the expelling power of refractory members, and if he refuse so to promise, should not Annual Meeting declare such publication contrary to the best interest of the Church of Christ, and provide accordingly?

Answer: This District Meeting requests Annual Meeting to decide that the *Progressive Christian* and all like papers, purporting to be published by a member or members of the Brethren Church, do not reflect the spirit and principles of the Church of Christ. The policy pursued by such papers is in direct opposition to the principles enunciated in Titus 3: 1; 1 Peter 5: 5; James 4: 11 and 1 Peter 11: 11. Editors and contributors who violate these principles of the Gospel, subject themselves to arraignment and trial before the congregation where they reside, or before Annual Meeting. We further request Annual Meeting to require our editors to conduct their respective papers according to Rom. 14: 19, and Eph. 4: 29, so that the body be edified, strengthened and unified in love and holiness. We also look with sorrow upon the tendency to levity and jesting through the papers, and beseech writers and teachers to avoid the degrading habit and remember 1st Thess. 5: 6-8; Eph. 5: 4, and 4: 29; Titus 2: 2-12; 1 Peter 1: 13; 4: 7; 5: 8. And we further desire that Annual Meeting require brother H. R. Holsinger to make confession for having violated the Word of God in the manner in which he has conducted his paper.

Whereas, H. R. Holsinger is publishing articles in his paper which have a tendency to bring about discord among the Brethren, and has a bad influence outside of the Brotherhood, we request therefore that a committee be appointed whose duty it shall be to take notice of that paper and if articles will continue to appear contrary to the faith and practice of the church, that it shall be their duty to bring said Holsinger to an account as in their judgment they may deem proper and right.

Answer: This meeting asks the Annual Meeting to grant and appoint the committee herein asked for, that it may carry out the decisions of 1879, Art. 16.



Whereas, H. R. Holsinger, editor of the Progressive Christian, is publishing and circulating through his paper and by tracts, unchristian, and often untruthful reflections upon brethren, made either by such who were subjected to their local church discipline, or by such who withstand and resist parts of our general and recognized church order; and also publicly through his paper charges brethren with being untruthful, in violation of the Gospel rule. Matt. 18: 16. And whereas the tendency of such publications is to encourage disorder and misrule among the churches, affecting the peace and prosperity of local churches, and likewise the harmony of our general Conference, and whereas the church of the Southern Missouri District unite their efforts with all the churches of our general Brotherhood towards preserving the principles and the precepts of the Gospel as embodied in our long established and general recognized rules and order of church fellowship. Will therefore District Meeting consider it advisable to declare whether H. R. Holsinger, or others, can be held and recognized by us as a brother, conducting a paper of the character of the Progressive Christian, now edited by H. R. Holsinger, and to declare whether in its judgment he can of right and with propriety be accepted to assist in general church work, or to serve on the Standing Committee.

Answer: We view with fear the course pursued by H. R. Holsinger in the manner of conducting his paper and of the principle he advocates, and we are unanimous in the conviction that it should be declared that we cannot regard him as a brother, and that he should be excluded from all participation in general church work, and we place these, our convictions, in the hands of the Standing Committee, to act in the premises as to them appears to be necessary.

The committee to which the above papers were submitted, made the following reports which were passed by the meeting:

We, the undersigned members of the committee appointed to consider charges against H. R. Holsinger and Samuel Kinsey, find that H. R. Holsinger is publishing a paper in which many articles have appeared criticising the work of Annual Meeting, and against the order of our church government, as also against our order of observing the Gospel principle of non-conformity to the world in wearing-apparel after having been again and again admonished by our Annual Meeting to be more guarded in his publication, and promised to do so, which promise he has not performed, but has continued his former course with increased effort. We therefore recommend that this meeting appoint a



committee to wait on him in his church and deal with him according to his transgressions.

S. S. Mohler,  
Daniel Vaniman,  
D. E. Price,  
George W. Cripe,  
Abraham Miller.

Joel Neff,  
C. Bucher,  
John Brillhart,  
John Smith.

In reference to the complaint alleged against brother Samuel Kinsey, editor of the Vindicator, we find he has not used due caution against admitting articles into his paper having a chismatic tendency, and criticising the work of committees, etc., (See Vols. 11 and 12), and we recommend a committee to be appointed to wait on him in his church and deal with him as his case demands.

S. S. Mohler,  
C. Bucher,  
G. W. Cripe,  
John Smith,  
Daniel Vaniman.

John Brillhart,  
D. E. Price,  
Abraham Miller,  
Joel Neff.

V. The following papers having reference to our periodicals, were also submitted to a committee to report on them to the council:

Inasmuch as the Brethren have always and wisely opposed paid or salaried ministry, because of its corrupting effects upon the church, and inasmuch as the periodicals conducted by our brethren under the present system are exposed to the same corrupting influence; and also because of the present growing difficulties in the Brotherhood which must largely be attributed to the present number and system of conducting our papers; we therefore recommend to the serious consideration of this District Meeting the propriety of preparing and recommending to Annual Meeting one system for the conducting of a single paper to be under the supervision of the Brotherhood. With this view to concentrate the responsibility into a Board of Managers, whose duty it shall be to see that they are conducted in harmony with the spirit and tenor of the Gospel.

On motion the delegates selected a committee on publications and on the morning of the 18th the committee reported as follows, which report after some debate, was accepted and forwarded to Annual Meeting:

We, the undersigned brethren, having been appointed by the present District Meeting to take into consideration the accompanying recommendation, have, after due and prayerful thought, come



to the following conclusions, which we herewith present to the District Meeting now in session for its acceptance or rejection.

Whereas, The present manner of conducting the many papers now in the Brotherhood is having an injurious effect upon the church, therefore we ask Annual Meeting to appoint a committee to see what can be done toward consolidating the papers and report to next Annual Meeting a plan by which such consolidation may be effected. And we further recommend that a committee be appointed to call to account (if not done by the church in which they live) all editors who shall allow objectionable articles that may cause dissensions or strife, and especially of a personal character, by referring to reports of committees or in any way causing hard feeling.

Enoch Eby,  
John J. Emmert,  
Daniel Deardorff,  
J. C. Lehman,  
Edmond Forney,  
David E. Price,  
George D. Zollars,  
D. L. Miller.

We ask District Meeting to enact something that will reduce the superfluous number of periodicals now published in the Brotherhood, and thus suppress and avoid the useless and injurious controversies that occur by reason of said superfluity.

The committee to which the above papers were submitted made the following report which was passed by the council:

We, your undersigned committee, have prayerfully considered the petition you presented us and in our humble judgment decide,

1. That the present unhappy state of things among us is not occasioned by the number of papers published among us, but by the character of the matter contained in them. We decide,

2. That the publication of a periodical is a private enterprise, and if properly conducted, is an important auxiliary in disseminating truth, and as such this meeting has no right to prohibit their publication. We decide,

3. That editors, like those who pursue other occupations, are equally responsible to the church for their conduct and influence. Now, whereas there are many grave objections coming to this meeting raised against the offensive character of articles published in some of our papers, and whereas these editors, or some of them, have been admonished time and again, made promise after promise and violated them, we therefore, as your committee, recommend that when editors fail to make satisfaction for the offense they thus commit, that Annual Meeting shall take the matter into con-



sideration and send a committee to wait upon said editors in their own congregations.

I. J. Rosenberger,  
Solomon Buckalew,  
George Holler,  
John Flory,  
Joseph Bowman.

VI. Brethren that have been called to the ministry, and fail to give evidence of their usefulness after a sufficient length of time, should they then be relieved by the church when they repeatedly request it?

Answer: We decide that the church in such a case shall do as it judges best.

VII. This Annual Meeting is asked to re-consider article 26, of Minutes of 1880 (Huntingdon copy,) and if the present answer be adopted, to answer the following question: If members may bring up, and committees investigate matters settled as set forth in said article, how shall congregations transact business so as to be final, or have congregations no such power?

Answer: We decide not to re-consider the article referred to, and in regard to the second part of the query, we decide that an appeal may be made from a former decision of the church if the committee sent urges it expedient to do so.

VIII. The Maquoketa church asks Annual Meeting through the Middle District of Iowa, how to proceed with a woman that was deceived by a man, and afterwards, to get rid of her and the law, he married her by compulsion but never lived with her. She sometime afterwards made application and was received into the church, and has lived a very consistent life since, but finally made application for a divorce and married another man. Under these circumstances can she be held as a member? Remember, they never lived together as man and wife after marriage.

Answer: If such cannot decide for herself according to Minutes of 1868 and 1880, let her seek the aid of adjoining elders.

IX. What is to be done with a brother or elder who goes a distance of ninety or one hundred miles to preach in another arm of the church, which is under the charge of Elder S. and gives liberty to disowned members who were guilty of railing against the council of Annual Meeting, and one who is guilty of gross immorality, to take part in the meeting, and to close the meeting with prayer; although Elder E. knew the circumstances and the relation of said members to the church. The members of said



church being offended by Elder E.'s proceedings, informed Elder S. their elder, and he wrote to Elder E., who agreed to meet Elder S. and offended members in council at the place where the offense was committed, but when the council was called, Elder E. refused to attend because he had corn to husk, however the members in council considered the case and decided that Elder E. should make an acknowledgment at the place where the offense was committed and informed Elder E. of the decision, but he refused to comply or give satisfaction.

Answer: This District Meeting considers that Elder E. has done wrong, and refers this to Annual Meeting for their decision.

Answer: It is wrong for an elder to do so, and we send a committee to get him in order and settle the troubles. And all elders, ministers or members disregarding the council of a church in fellowshiping expelled members, subject themselves to the council of the church.

X. Inasmuch as there is a growing tendency to disregard the order of the church in regard to wearing-apparel, what would be the best way to stop the evil; or what should be done with elders who do not enforce them?

Answer: This question was deferred.

XI. Whereas, The officers in the church are the servants of the church, and it is therefore reasonable that they should be the servants of the majority, and as it is possible for a person to be elected against his will to fill an office by a minority (with the plurality system) only to be publicly disgraced by being deposed by a majority who had never chosen him;

Resolved, That we petition Annual Meeting to authorize all elections in the Brotherhood to be made by a majority of the votes cast.

Answer: We decide that no change shall be made at present in the manner of electing our church officers.

XII. As Paul in giving the qualifications of a bishop does not say that he should be the oldest in office, we petition Annual Meeting to repeal that qualification, and confine the qualification to Scripture only.

Answer: The Brethren ordaining elders, do not overlook the qualifications of elders as given by Paul, but the order of the church has been that when ministers eligible to office, and having about equal qualifications, to ordain the oldest. Provision, however, has been made that, under certain circumstances, the voice



of the church may be taken to decide which of the ministers shall be ordained.

XIII. Whereas, Annual Meeting is always a large assembly, and it is next to impossible to get anything like a definite vote from the whole assembly; and even if we could obtain a definite vote on every question from the whole assembly, the decisions must necessarily partake of the sentiments of the district in which Annual Meeting is held, on account of the superior number of voters by which it is represented; and,

Whereas, the Brotherhood can be evenly represented by delegates, and the work much more expeditiously and satisfactorily performed by confining the voting entirely to the delegates, therefore,

Resolved, That we pray Annual Meeting to make all her decisions by a majority vote of the delegates present.

Answer: We decide to make no change.

XIV. Inasmuch as the use of tobacco is offensive to the majority of the followers of Christ, and it seems that the Scriptures, indirectly if not directly, forbid its use, we petition District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting that hereafter the offices of preacher, deacon, or any other office in the church be given to no one unless he will abstain from its use, except for medical purposes.

Answer: We re-affirm the old decisions of 1817 and 1827, and advise all the officers of the church to abstain from its use.

Concerning the use of tobacco, it was in union considered, that if a member should be contaminated with it, such should be admonished to quit it; and if it would not be told, such a member could not be elected to any office in the church. Art. 1, Minutes of 1817.

Concerning members who engage in the raising of tobacco. Considered that members should have nothing to do with such things by which so much mischief is done, and so many men (and women too) are led captive as is with the case of tobacco. Art. 12, of Minutes of 1827.

XV. The Southern District of Illinois hereby petitions Annual Meeting to send only such brethren on committees to settle difficulties in churches who are in the general order of the Brotherhood in dress and in the wearing of the hair.

Answer: Agreed to by Annual Meeting.

XVI. We request Annual Meeting through District Meeting to send only such brethren as delegates and members of the Standing Committee and to settle difficulties, who are sound in the



faith, and who carry out and advocate the order of the church in wearing the clothes, hair and beard, as well as in everything else, with the understanding that they will be rejected if not sent in harmony with the above.

Answer: Brethren who opposed the established order of the church are not suitable brethren to settle troubles in the church, or to represent as delegates.

XVII. Inasmuch as Annual Meeting of 1876, Art. 8, forbids members who dress after the fashions of the world to speak in public at our Conference, should not churches and District Meetings be instructed to send only such delegates who dress themselves and wear their hair after the general order of the Brotherhood, and who try to carry out this decision?

Answer: Yes.

XVIII. Is it right for elders to go out of their State or State districts, ordaining elders without the consent of adjoining elders?

Answer: Not right, and the general Brotherhood will not recognize such proceedings.

XIX. In Minutes of Annual Meeting of 1866, Art. 27, sisters' overcoats are classed with jewelry and other vain things. Shall, therefore, sisters who wear plain overcoats, for this be dealt with according to Matt. 18?

Answer: No.

XX. Is it according to the order of the Brethren and elders, or any other brethren, to hold secret or clandestine meetings for the purpose of circulating petitions or for any other purpose?

Answer: No; and brethren doing as above stated should fall into the judgment of the church.

XXI. Whereas, There is much dissatisfaction expressed by many because of the inconsistencies they see in the general Brotherhood in the matter of wearing hats by the sisters; some localities being compelled by committees and decisions of Annual Conference to make it a test of fellowship by which many have been expelled from the church, while other localities or districts are admitting that for which others are being expelled, hence the just cause for complaining of inconsistencies in the Brotherhood. We therefore ask this District Meeting to say whether the wearing of hats by the sisters shall be made a test of fellowship; if so, to see that the same be enforced in all places in the Brotherhood, thereby removing the inconsistencies referred to.



Inasmuch as the Annual Conference has decided that sisters shall not wear hats, elders and officers should see that this decision is carried out.

Answer: Elders who do not do so, shall be dealt with as transgressors.

XXII. Resolved, That the decisions in regard to what is called the Miami Valley elders' petition, is as near right as any that can be reached upon the questions embodied in said petition; and the prosperity of the Brotherhood demands that said decision of Annual Conference of 1880 remain unchanged.

Answer: We decide that it remain unchanged.

XXIII. Inasmuch as there are some brethren living in Meigs county, Ohio, where there is no legal organized church, who have been baptized by the brethren of Southern Ohio, and there being much confusion between them and the old brethren of Southern Ohio, on the subject of Feet-washing, we ask Annual Conference to reconsider all queries and answers on this subject since 1872, Art. 17, and to re-adopt the decision of that year as the rule and practice of the Church of the Brethren.

Answer: We decide to re-adopt the decision of 1877, as the best we can do under existing circumstances.

XXIV. Inasmuch as the Foreign and Domestic mission is causing trouble and confusion in the Church of the Brethren, we ask Annual Meeting to consider all its decisions on this subject since 1868, Art. 21, and to re-adopt the decision of that year.

Answer: We do re-adopt the decisions of 1868, but to save the Danish mission and the arrangement of 1880 from being disorganized, we leave them stand at least one year.

XXV. As the latter decision of Annual Meeting on the subject of Sabbath-schools has caused trouble and confusion, we ask Annual Meeting to consider all its decisions on this subject since 1871, Art. 17, and re-adopt the decisions of that year.

Answer: We adopt the decisions of 1871, Art. 17, as the best for the peace of the church, but where there is a large majority, or even a minority who can hold a Sabbath-school without interfering with the peace and union of the church, they may have the privilege of such a school.

XXVI. Inasmuch as the High Schools are causing trouble and confusion by their being called "Brethren's Schools," we ask Annual Meeting to decide that they shall not be called by that name.



Answer: Whereas the name "Brethren's Schools" has given offense to some, we decide that the name be avoided as much as expedient, and that they be called after the names of the places in which they are located.

XXVII. Is a person a legal member of the church, according to Acts 8: 17, and 9: 6, who had hands laid on him after baptism, out of the water? If so, we ask the brethren to re-consider and change the reading of the Minutes of 1848, Art. 3, and 1858, Art. 41, so as to recommend to the different churches to follow the example of the apostles in the laying on of hands out of the water.

Answer: Yes, but in regard to the latter part of the question, we answer that we make no change in the general order.

XXVIII. Is it according to the Gospel and apostolic precedent to practice the laying on of hands in prayer which follows baptism after the administrator and the party baptized come up out of the water?

Answer: This question was deferred.

XXIX. Will this District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to grant relatives, as defined by Annual Meeting 1874, Art. 11, the same privilege as granted to the accused in Annual Meeting 1878, Art. 6, as asking them to be satisfied with a pending case before they hear it, often fails to give satisfaction.

Answer: Annual Meeting decides that the relatives shall have the same privilege the accused have.

XXX. With regard to the missionary plan, with its board of directors, etc., we are not in full harmony with, and therefore offer the following: That we ask Annual Meeting of 1881, through District Meeting, to recall said decision of last year in which we fear a paid ministry is encouraged, and urge it earnestly upon the Brotherhood to be more actively engaged in spreading the truth amongst us and to all as much as can be done, but in a more simple manner after the pattern and advice of the church as given us heretofore.

Answer: This question was deferred.

XXXI. Is it right, or according to the Gospel and the order of the Brethren, for an elder to get up in Annual Council and express himself that there is a number of decisions passed at Annual



Council that he does not regard at all, and then have such a one on the Standing Committee?

Answer: It is not right to do so.

Committees appointed to visit churches to settle grievances:

1. Bear Creek church, Montgomery county, Ohio, to carry out decision of former committee, R. H. Miller, D. Brower, J. P. Eber-sole, Jacob Rife and I. J. Rosenberger.

2. To the Wolf Creek church, Montgomery county, Ohio, the same as above.

3. To Bear Creek church, Ohio, D. P. Saylor, D. Long, and C. G. Lint.

4. To settle difficulties between two brethren, one in North Manchester, and one in Eel River church, Ind., Jacob Rife, G. W. Cripe and J. H. Miller.

5. To the Amwell church, N. J., D. P. Saylor, R. H. Miller, Christian Bucher, John Wise and J. Quinter.

6. To Cold Water and Maquoketa churches, Iowa, John Thomas, Robert Badger and Michael Sisler.

7. To Waddam's Grove church, Ill., R. H. Miller, J. Wise, and Daniel Vaniman.

8. To Ashland, Ohio, called by S. Z. Sharp, John Wise, E. Eby, Joseph Kauffman and I. J. Rosenberger.

9. To Middle Fork church, Ind., R. H. Miller, Daniel Bowman and George Hoover.

10. To Conemaugh church, Pa., J. Wise, C. G. Lint, L. Kimmel, J. W. Brumbaugh and James Quinter.

11. To Still Water church, Ohio, D. Long and C. G. Lint.

12. To the Berlin church, Pa., J. Wise, E. Eby, C. Bucher, D. Long and Joseph Kauffman.

The following resolutions were passed:

1. Resolved, That the Standing Committee, hereafter meet on Friday morning before Pentecost to organize at that time instead of Monday morning. But petitions for committees, &c., will not be received until Monday.

2. Resolved, That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Railroad Companies that have given us favors, to the people of Ashland for their hospitality, and to the trustees of Ashland College for their generosity in granting the use of the college for the accommodations of the meeting.

3. Resolved, That we accept the invitation of the brethren in the Northern District of Indiana for the Annual Meeting of 1882, and will, the Lord willing, meet with our brethren there in 1882.



As the meeting could not continue in session more than four days, it did not finish all the business that was before it. The business of the following States was laid over until next year: Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Michigan, and the Districts of North-eastern Ohio, North-western Ohio, Tennessee, Texas and Denmark.

The undersigned reported to the meeting that he had in his possession a balance of about one hundred dollars of the money collected to defray expenses of the committee to California, and was directed to retain it until Annual Meeting shall have occasion to use it in paying the expenses of some other committee.

J. Quinter.

The meeting closed with devotional exercises.

Standing Committee:—J. S. Flory, C. C. Root, Robert Badger, E. Forney, J. Rife, D. Sturgis, R. H. Miller, C. G. Lint, Samuel Harley, J. Trostle, D. B. Arnold, J. H. Lemon, Isaac Miller, A. Hutchison, J. Thomas, E. Eby, J. Wise, D. E. Wolfe, D. Brower, Jos. Kauffman, Moses Miller, D. P. Saylor, D. Stouffer, Isaac Long, G. C. Bowman, D. Hays.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1882.

Arnold's, Kosciusko Co., Ind.

On Monday, the 29th of May, the Standing Committee met and organized by appointing Enoch Eby, Moderator, James Quinter, Writing Clerk, John Wise, Reading Clerk, and J. S. Holsinger, door keeper.

On Tuesday morning the brethren assembled for public council, and after the usual introductory services of a devotional character, the business of the meeting was entered upon, and the following questions were presented for consideration, and in the fear of the Lord decided as herein stated.

I. Will Annual Meeting grant the same liberty to sisters to vote on questions at Annual Meeting that brethren have?

Answer: Yes.

II. We, the undersigned Committee, appointed by Annual Meeting to go to the Berlin church, Somerset county, Pa., "to wait on Elder H. R. Holsinger, and deal with him according to his transgressions," do report as follows:

Met with the Berlin church on Tuesday, August 9th, 1881, and were unanimously accepted by the church, H. R. Holsinger included. And upon the question to H. R. Holsinger, whether he would concede to, and accept of the general usages of the church



in conducting this investigation? H. R. Holsinger declined, whereupon a lengthy discussion followed upon the following departure from the general usages of the church:

1st. H. R. Holsinger employed a stenographer to take down and publish the proceedings of the Council.

2nd. The Council to be held in the presence of persons not members of the church, which discussion closed by the Berlin church saying that they had passed a resolution in absence of the Committee, that they will have a full report of proceedings taken; and right on this, passed, in presence of the Committee, the following:

Resolved, That this Council shall be held openly to all members, and persons not members of the Brethren church will be considered present by courtesy only, and none but the members of the Berlin Church and the Committee are invited to participate in the business.

Wednesday, August 10 met at 9 a. m. according to adjournment. The Chairman announced to the meeting that the Committee feared the members did not understand the responsibilities they assumed yesterday and proposed a re-consideration and rescinding of their decisions. After some investigation of the propriety of re-consideration brother Holsinger gave liberty for any one to make a motion to that effect, but no motion was offered. After due time the Committee retired and decided as follows:

In view of the above considerations, especially in view of the fact that brother H. R. Holsinger refused to have his case investigated by the Committee in harmony with the Gospel as interpreted by our Annual Meeting, and the consent of our general brotherhood, and inasmuch as brother H. R. Holsinger and the Berlin church assumed all responsibility in the case, therefore we decided: That brother H. R. Holsinger cannot be held in fellowship in the brotherhood, and all who depart with him shall be held responsible to the action of the next Annual Meeting.

John Wise,  
Enoch Eby,  
C. Bucher,  
David Long,  
Joseph N. Kauffman.

The foregoing report was accepted.

III. Will this District Meeting petition Annual Meeting to make a change in sending out committees to settle difficulties so that those of a financial character be settled by brethren who are



not ministers, and those that involve points of doctrine and church organizations be settled by committees of elders only?

Answer: Annual Meeting grants the petition.

IV. Inasmuch as the Annual Meeting has accepted the Report of the Berlin committee, in which certain parties are cited to the action of this Annual Meeting, the following case being in harmony with the above, we answer the whole as follows: We further petition Annual Meeting to declare any member, whether lay member, elder, teacher, deacon or printer, who will speak, preach, write, or publish anything disrespectful against the doctrine, order, custom, or usages of the general Church is an offender against the general Brotherhood, and he shall be reported to the church in which he holds his membership by any one cognizant of the facts, and the church shall try him as an offender against the Brotherhood, and if he will not acknowledge his offence through the same medium he uttered his offence, and promise to do so no more, the church shall expel him. And any one who will hold Christian fellowship with such expelled ones shall fall under the same judgment. And if the church in which such offenders hold their membership will refuse to proceed against her offenders, said church shall be reported to Annual Meeting by any one knowing the fact, and Annual Meeting shall try said church by a committee, and if need be, expel all her rebellious members. And these decisions shall take effect from the time of their adoption.

Annual Meeting grants this petition with this amendment, That all churches having such offenders, or any others that are guilty of offences not specified above, and the church in which they hold their membership will neglect, or refuse to try them for their offence, it shall be the duty of the adjoining elders to have them tried as set forth above. But if the majority of the church will hinder the trial, then those elders shall proceed in that work with the minority of said church according to Art. 18, of Annual Meeting, 1869. And said decision shall be respected until reversed by Annual Meeting.

But in case a brother, or brethren, shall speak reproachfully against Annual Meeting, or her proceedings at the time and place of Annual Meeting, said brethren shall be held as offenders against the general brotherhood, and they shall be tried at once by a committee appointed by the Standing Committee, and approved by the general council, and said committee shall deal with them according to their offence, and their decision shall be respected by the General Council, and by the respective churches. The word reproachfully shall not be so construed as to prevent any brother from expressing his opinion with Christian courtesy.

V. District Meeting petitions Annual Meeting of 1882 to de-



cide that hereafter all queries to Annual Meeting for decision, shall in all cases be decided according to the Scriptures, where there is any thing direct ("Thus saith the Lord,") applying to the question. And all questions to which there is no direct expressed Scripture applying, it shall be decided according to the spirit and meaning of the Scripture. And that decision shall be mandatory to all the churches having such cases as the decision covers. And all who shall not so heed and observe it shall be held as not hearing the church, and shall be dealt with accordingly.

Answer: The petition is granted.

VI. District Meeting petitions Annual Meeting of 1882 to appoint a committee, consisting of one member from each district, who shall make their own organization, and said committee shall during the year write out in regular order and form, the Rule, Order and Practice of the German Baptist church, and submit the same to the Annual Meeting of 1883 for approval and adoption. And when adopted by the Annual Meeting it shall be the rule, order and practice for the general brotherhood. And all who will not so heed and observe it shall be deemed as not hearing the Church, and dealt with accordingly.

Answer: Indefinitely postponed.

VII. Does the general brotherhood consider it right to elect a brother from among the ministering brethren and ordain him without respect to age in office, and passing by two or three that may be older in office and that have perhaps nearly all the qualifications, while the one chosen may be as deficient in as many? And if it is not right what shall be done with brethren and elders that have done, and still are doing so?

The District Meeting considers it wrong to do as above stated; and asks Annual Meeting to stop such practice, and to correct what has thus been done, and caused trouble in our brotherhood.

Answer: Passed as it came from the District Meeting.

VIII. How is it considered when ministers go into a regularly organized congregation and hold meetings with excommunicated members, and fellowship and even commune with them?

Answer: We decide that this question is answered in the answer to query 4, passed at this meeting.

IX. Inasmuch as the gratuitous ministry of the Word of God, as a general rule, is of plain precept and example in the Gospel of Christ, and is a fundamental principle in the order and practice of



our Brotherhood, we advise that no Annual or District Meeting should hereafter, admit to its deliberations, in any capacity whatever and no church should fellowship any official or other member who will speak, preach, write or publish doctrine, statedly or persistently, that is in opposition, or inconsistent with the general rule and practice of the Church, provided, however, that nothing contained in the above rule shall be construed to prohibit individual churches, or Mission Boards, or Committees of the Brethren from defraying the necessary expenses of ministers who engage actively, most of their time, any one or more years, in the Evangelistic or Mission Service of the Brethren, nor against the Minutes of Annual Meeting not inconsistent therewith as heretofore adopted and amended.

Answer: We decide that this query is answered by decisions previously made by the meeting.

X. We also declare distinctly that our loyal and faithful Brotherhood should neither fellowship, countenance nor tolerate those who would undertake to establish, under any pretence or color whatever, theological schools, or theological departments of schools or colleges, having in contemplation or purpose the training or graduation of any youth specially for the ministry of the Brotherhood or elsewhere, but we should faithfully adhere to our long-established practice in calling brethren to the ministry.

The Annual Meeting passed this paper as it came from the District Meeting.

XI. A congregation with the assistance of two ordained elders from other districts, disown some of her members from church fellowship, and the disowned members (with perhaps others) draw up a paper in which they set forth that they will not be under the administration and jurisdiction of the bishop (the bishop of the church that disowned them) and some of these disowned members carried said paper around among some of the members, but not to all, only to a small proportion, to obtain their names to said paper, using, in some instances, undue means to obtain them, and when a certain number of names were obtained, the paper with names attached was sent to the "Bishop and all whom it may concern." The paper and names were read by the elder to the congregation. The congregation accepts the withdrawal of those who had not already been disowned. They were notified that their withdrawal was accepted, and that their connection with church fellowship was severed. Following this, these disowned members made application for membership in an adjoining district.



Said district in one of her councils, heard their aggrievances, and decided to receive them into their church fellowship. All this being done in the absence of the members by whom they were disowned, nor even giving them any notice of their purposes. Then an elder of an adjoining district, with some of his members comes into the district from which they were disowned and organizes them into a separate body from that to which they formerly belonged, calling them brethren of the church, or congregation that thus received them. Some time after the elder with these members of this organization, received into their fellowship persons that had several years before been disowned from church fellowship, and that had made no satisfaction to the church that had disowned them, and received into their fellowship such as were disowned by an adjoining district, have introduced instrumental music into their place of worship, and having a salaried hired ministry, etc. The questions we pray to have answered, based upon the above are the following:

First. Can a district or church that treats the action or decision of a regularly organized district as above set forth be considered in full union or communion with her sister churches, as long as she holds such she thus receives into her fellowship?

Second. Can an elder or elders that go into the acknowledged district of an elder, and organize a church as above stated, hold their office of eldership?

Third. Are such disowned members, though received, as above set forth, to be held as members of the brethren church?

Fourth. In case such or similar organizations continue their meetings, are our ministering brethren under any circumstances permitted to preach for them, holding them as members of the Brethren church, work with them for the purpose of increasing their number?

Answers:

First. Such church is not in full union and communion if she persists in such work.

Second. No.

Third. No.

Fourth. No.

XII. Should we not strictly observe, as God's people, the yearly National Thanksgiving day, as ordered by the chief executive of our land, and recommend thanksgiving services to be held in each congregation of our beloved Brotherhood upon that day?

Answer: Yes.



XIII. Whereas, certain elders and others became grieved at our Annual Meeting in her manner of doing business, and also at some of her decisions, and hence have framed certain resolutions in which are set forth the cause of their grievances. And on the 24th of August, 1881, they met together from different States in the Ludlow and Painter Creek church, Darke county, Ohio, where those resolutions were read, and some remarks made upon their merits, etc., and after an explanation by their foreman when he said, "that all who vote for these resolutions, separate themselves from the general brotherhood and its Annual Meeting." They then took a rising vote to ascertain who were willing to accept their resolutions, thereby causing a division in the brotherhood, and especially in Southern Ohio, hence bringing about a necessity for the elders and officers of the church, who were still willing to stand by the general order and usages of our Annual Meeting, to bring the matter before their local churches, where all that have gone with the resolutions were excommunicated from the church. Therefore, Resolved, That we ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to endorse the action of the churches in Southern Ohio and elsewhere in regard to those who have gone with the resolutions and also to enter the same upon the minutes.

Answer: This Annual Meeting does endorse the action of the churches which expelled the members who accepted the resolutions referred to above.

XIV. Since Annual Meeting has granted members the privilege to apply to District Meeting for committees to settle difficulties that could not be settled by local churches, will not this District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to make it the duty of such members to apply first to District Meeting for a committee, and such committee, if granted, be required to keep a complete record of the case, and leave a copy with the church where the trouble exists; and if said committee fails to render satisfaction, either party may then apply to Annual Meeting for a committee by presenting a copy of proceedings of former committee with the application to standing committee, and thereby enabling standing committee (to some extent, at least) to judge of the necessity or propriety of sending a committee.

Answer: Yes; but this shall not be construed so as to prohibit Annual Meeting hearing a case and sending a committee when a district fails to do so.

XV. The following Report, as amended by the General Council, of the committee to whom were submitted the papers



asking for a change in the manner of holding the Annual Meeting was accepted:

1. We advise that there be no change in the manner of electing the Standing Committee, but no elder shall be elected to serve on Standing Committee more than two years in four.

2. We further decide that each congregation having a membership of 200 or less may send one delegate.

Congregations if over 200 members may send two. The Delegates thus sent with the Standing Committee shall compose the voting power of Annual Meeting.

All members present shall have the right to participate in the discussion of all questions before the meeting; and in case any query or queries cannot pass by unanimous consent, the Delegates and Standing Committee shall decide then by a two-third majority.

B. F. Moomaw,  
S. C. Stump,  
John Humberger,  
L. H. Dickey,  
E. W. Stoner,  
J. S. Snyder,  
Edmund Forney,  
John Brilhart,  
Samuel Harley,  
Geo. W. Cripe.

XVI. The following report from the Committee to whom were submitted the papers asking for a revision of the minutes of Annual Meeting, was presented to the general Council and accepted:

1. That the Standing Committee appoint a Committee of fifteen brethren chosen from the different sections of the Brotherhood and representing the views of the Brotherhood in general.

2. That each member of said Committee shall take all the minutes of Annual Meeting, and

1. Select all such minutes as are not obsolete.

2. Such as do not conflict with later decisions.

3. Such as do not seem to conflict with the express or implied meaning of the Scriptures.

4. Combine all such as are of a similar nature and submit the same to a conference of all the members of said Committee which shall revise the work of all, and submit their work to next Annual Meeting for adoption.

C. G. Lint,  
Daniel Chambers,  
Daniel R. Sayler,  
P. S. Myers,  
Elias Brubaker,  
S. Z. Sharp.

XVII. Whereas the present manner of dealing with members



who publish schismatic articles or otherwise give offence to the general Brotherhood is both expensive and unsatisfactory. Therefore we recommend the following to be forwarded to Annual Meeting:

1. Let the local church send the charge against the offending party to District Meeting.

2. If District Meeting considers the case of sufficient importance to require an action, then she shall send the charge to Annual Meeting and appoint a brother to represent the said district in the case. Said District Meeting shall also inform the offending party of the charge or charges against him and notify him to appear at Annual Meeting to defend himself there.

3. Annual Meeting shall then appoint a Committee to investigate the case before whom the representative from said District Meeting shall appear and make a statement of the case. And the offending party shall have the privilege of answering to the charges before said Committee. The Committee shall then make a decision and report to Annual Meeting while she is yet in session for approval, amendment or rejection. Submitted to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Passed by the general Council as submitted by the District Meeting.

XVIII. Inasmuch as pride and fashion is on the increase in the church, and as there are ministers and elders in the church who are encouraging members to become disobedient to the Gospel and ruling of the church, and wounding the feelings of many of our dear members. And as there are many of our dear members still partially clinging to the church with the hope that next Annual Meeting will do something to arrest this progressive tendency in the body. Will not this District Meeting urge Annual Meeting to strictly enforce and carry out minutes of Annual Meeting of 1876, (Art. 18th?) Submitted to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Passed by the general Council.

XIX. Whereas there is a tendency in places in our brotherhood toward a salaried ministry, will this District Meeting ask Annual Meeting that there be no specified sum per day, week, month or year, paid to ministers on missions or any other work; but the Mission Board or Committee having control of funds may donate to ministers such sums as in their judgment their circumstances require.



Answer: Passed by Annual Meeting as requested by the District Meeting.

XX. Will District Meeting of Northern Indiana decide to ask Annual Meeting to decide that all persons or churches asking for committees shall first make an effort to have their troubles settled according to the Gospel and order of the brethren, before any committee be granted by Annual or District Meeting?

Answer: Annual Meetings and District Meetings should not send committees until they are certain every lawful effort has failed to settle the trouble.

XXI. The committee to whom were submitted the papers asking for the consolidation of our periodicals, presented two reports. The following was accepted:

We the owners and publishers of the "Primitive Christian" and "Brethren at Work," have this day agreed upon a basis of consolidation on the following conditions:

Two papers shall be published, one East and one West, or one paper with a branch office, as Annual Meeting and the consolidated firm may think to be for the best interests of the church.

The Annual Meeting shall recognize this paper, or papers, as the case may be, as the official church paper.

We agree to make ourselves directly amenable to Annual Meeting for the contents and character of the paper or papers.

We also further agree to purchase at a reasonable price any other papers now published in the Brotherhood, and to merge them into the consolidated paper or papers:

If the above is not acceptable to Annual Meeting, we hereby agree to sell our respective papers to any company that this Annual Meeting may designate at the price agreed upon between ourselves as the basis for our proposed consolidation.

Quinter & Brumbaugh Bros.  
Miller & Amick.

Milford, Ind., June 1, 1882.

Committee: D. L. Miller, H. K. Myers, H. B. Brumbaugh, R. H. Miller, S. T. Bosserman, J. Harshberger.

XXII. Does District Meeting consider Sunday-school Conventions a means to promote the interests and peace of the church, —a means to maintain the simplicity of the Gospel of Christ, and a means to encourage the principles and the practice of non-conformity to the world?

Answer: No; and since holding conventions is not authorized by Annual Meeting, we ask Annual Meeting to advise against them.

The foregoing is the answer of the District Meeting, the following is the answer of Annual Meeting:



Answer: However much we are in favor of Sunday-schools, and believe they are promotive of good and enhance the cause of Christianity, yet the Annual Meeting cannot allow the unnecessary appendage of Sunday-school Conventions which follow the course of popular Christianity and are contrary to the principles of the Gospel and contrary to the Scriptures. See Rom. 12: 2.

XXIII. Resolved, That we recommend to Annual Meeting of 1882 that committees be appointed to wait on J. A. Ridenour, S. H. Bashor and others, ministers, deacons or lay members, who are encouraging H. R. Holsinger, publicly or privately, and endorse his opposition to the rules and principles of our general Brotherhood, and in like manner declare all such separate from the fellowship of our people if they persist in such opposition. This query for Annual Meeting.

Answer: The matter contained in this petition has been answered by former action of this meeting, except as relates to brother S. H. Bashor, (and not knowing where his membership is located) therefore this Annual Meeting declares, that having pursued the course he has in such work as writing his tract called "Seven Thunders," "Where is Holsinger?" and actively opposing some of our peculiar characteristics, that he cannot be recognized as a minister among us until he renders satisfaction through the church where he holds his membership, as provided by Art. 4 of this Annual Meeting.

And in order to effect the above a committee of five is appointed to attend to this matter.

XXIV. Inasmuch as Annual Meeting has decided that where a church is out of order that the adjoining elders have the authority to set the same in order. Now the majority of a church withdraws from the general Brotherhood, and disfellowships members who are loyal to the Annual Meeting, and in the order of the Church. The officials of the seceding church refuse to call their congregation together, upon the request of the adjoining elders. After the adjoining elders have taken counsel of quite a number of elders, at home and abroad, with their other official co-laborers in adjoining churches, have they, the adjoining elders, the right and authority to appoint a council for said offending church, send a visit to all her members and notify them of the council and charges against them? Now when the council convenes, the seceding members not appearing and refusing the Brethren's church house for said council, have the adjoining elders, with the loyal part of said church, the authority and power to transact such business as may come before them?

Answer: The Cedar county church decides that the rights, au-



thority and powers alluded to in above query are in harmony with the Gospel and general order of the German Baptist church, and ask Annual Meeting through the Middle District Meeting of Iowa, to approve the same.

Answer: The Annual Meeting approves of the above.

XXV. A committee was appointed by the Annual Meeting of 1881 to go to Coldwater and Wayman Valley churches, Iowa. Said committee for certain reasons did not act, and asked to be relieved. The present Annual Meeting relieves said committee.

XXVI. We, the brethren, petition this District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting by all means to labor in love and Christian forbearance to unite the present conflicting elements in the church at large. We want union, not separation.

Answer: This Annual Meeting has acted in harmony with the request contained in the foregoing petition.

XXVII. We petition Annual Meeting in order to bring about a oneness in feet-washing, that former decisions on that subject be re-considered.

Answer: Desirable as it is that there should be a oneness in the practice of feet-washing among us, we decide it best not to re-consider former decisions upon the subject at this time.

XXVIII. Will this District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to say what shall be done with members who attach themselves to worldly organizations? Such as Life Insurance companies and United Workmen.

Answer: Considered that brethren cannot unite with such associations as above named, and those who belong are required to leave them or be dealt with as transgressors.

XXIX. As the Annual Meeting has decided that it is inconsistent for members to have their lives insured, (Annual Meeting 1873, page 379, Art. 1st,) what is to be done with a brother who has his life insured, especially ministers and ordained elders who persist in so doing?

Answer: Those who do so shall be dealt with as transgressors.

XXX. Inasmuch as Annual Meeting, by article 18 of Minutes 1869, sustains a minority in church when said minority acts upon the advice and decisions of Annual Meeting, and by this declares in favor of a sound principle of church government, and reaffirmed it by Art. 24 of 1877, and by Art. 6 of 1879; but in concluding Art. 6, of 1879, such a course is recommended towards a minority that is calculated to lead it to surrender the right which



the before named Articles confirmed to these, as also it provides to set its own authority aside. Will, therefore, District Meeting pray Annual Meeting to reconsider and repeal its recommendation connected with its answer to Art. 6 of 1879, that the principles of sound church government as embodied in the Articles named may be preserved and the peace of churches be guarded on all subjects whereon minority acts in harmony with Annual Meeting.

Answer: Where a minority acts in harmony with the decision of Annual Meeting, the minority should not be persuaded to yield the right.

XXXI. 1. A committee to Sugar Creek, Illinois, to settle difficulties in the church, D. E. Price, T. D. Lyon and C. S. Holsinger.

2. A committee to the Ogan's Creek church, Indiana, J. G. Royer, J. H. Kaylor, and J. W. Metzger.

3. A committee to Wakenda church, Mo., S. S. Mohler, Samuel Honberger, George Myers, R. H. Miller, and George W. Cripe.

4. Committee for Revision of Minutes, B. F. Moomaw, G. D. Bowman, S. A. Fike, D. R. Saylor, C. G. Lint, I. J. Rosenberger, R. H. Miller, Daniel Chambers, Daniel Vaniman, S. S. Mohler, John Forney, David Bechtelheimer, John Zook, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Daniel Hays and C. Bucher.

5. Committee to deal with brother S. H. Bashor, Jos. N. Kauffman, Jesse Stutsman, David Workman, John Smith and William Murray.

6. Committee to confer with the publishers in regard to consolidation, Daniel Vaniman, J. P. Ebersole, B. F. Moomaw, Christian Bucher, and John Forney.

XXXII. The Report of the Committee to the Conemaugh Church, Pa.

The committee sent by Annual Meeting of 1881 to the Conemaugh church in Cambria Co., Penn'a., met with the members of said congregation August 22nd of the year above named.

After usual opening exercises we presented ourselves to the meeting as a committee sent by Annual Meeting for the church to accept or reject, when the following developed itself; first a large majority of the membership present objected to the committee as a whole, but accepted of Elders Wise and Lint upon the following motion:

First. That they be accepted as a committee to investigate pro-



ceedings of former committee, whether they had the right to open up the former decisions that were settled and approved of unanimously.

Second. The objections of Elds. Quinter and Brumbaugh and Kimmel were the following: Because they (the church) think it strange that they should sit to investigate their own proceedings.

We, Elders Wise and Lint, decide that inasmuch as the above objection against the former committee was presented unto us, we accept of the objection where their work is brought into question, in all other matters they work with us. And in regard to the right the former committee had in going back as far as they did, find that their proceeding was in strict harmony with the petitions sent up to Annual Meeting of 1880, signed by over one hundred and fifty petitioners as well as the usages of the general Brotherhood and therefore affirm the proceedings of former committees in the above case." Signed

John Wise.

C. G. Lint.

The above report was submitted to the church August 22nd for the approval or rejection when the vote stood as follows: 26 accepted the report, 42 rejected, 3 neutral.

C. G. Lint, Clerk.

Whereupon the committee presented the following full and final report:

The undersigned being a committee sent by Annual Meeting of 1881 to the Conemaugh church in Cambria Co., Pa., to ascertain why the decision of the committee sent by Annual Meeting of 1880 was not more fully carried out than it was, or to investigate the troubles in said church again if in the judgment of the committee it should be thought best to do so, or to settle the trouble in said church as the committee should judge best, met the said church in council on the 22nd of August 1881, and proceeded to perform the work that devolved upon us.

The first thing done was to investigate the propriety of the former committee going back to the commencement of the troubles with brother Brallier. This was done not by the whole committee, but by brethren Wise and Lint, the other three members of the committee took no part in this, as they were a party in the case. This part of our work was done by the request of the church. The result of the investigation was the confirmation of the decision of the former committee as affirmed by the members of this committee, was presented to the church. There were forty-two votes against it, twenty-six for it and three neutral.

And in view of the fact that the decision was rejected as it was, and as it was the second committee sent by Annual Meeting, we decided that those that rejected the report cannot be recognized as being in fellowship with our general Brotherhood. And



it was not simply because they rejected the report submitted to them that we decide they cannot be members of our Brotherhood, but the propriety and necessity of our decision was made apparent by the spirit of determination manifested by those rejecting our report, to have their own way and to pay no regard to the advice and decision of the committee, and to the general order of the church, as based upon the Gospel. They had gone so far as to draw up an instrument of writing and signed it, pledging themselves to stand by one another, and not to be governed by what the committee might do. They even prayed the committee to not interfere with their wishes, and manifested in the steps they had taken a desire to be independent of the general Brotherhood.

And it is understood by our decision that the minority that accepted our decision, and thereby manifest a desire to remain in and work with the general Brotherhood, constitute the Cone-maugh church. And according to our decision Bro. S. Brallier shall be a minister in the second degree in said church. It will be understood that those who were neutral can accept at any time the report, not asking more than a reasonable length of time to decide. It is also understood that any who rejected the report and thereby separated themselves from the church, can be received again if they wish to do so.

The above was rejected by 39, accepted by 24.

John Wise,  
C. G. Lint,  
James Quinter,  
John W. Brumbaugh,  
Lewis Kimmel.

This report was accepted by Annual Meeting.

#### REPORT OF MISSIONARY BOARD.

The Missionary Board, Foreign and Domestic, met in session to transact business, May 25th, 1882. Members present: Elders James Quinter, Enoch Eby, Joseph Leedy, D. E. Brubaker, and S. T. Bosserman.

1st. Report of Evangelists; their work and expenditures. Eld. J. Wise reported his labors during the year from the following places: Canada, forty days; Pennsylvania, sixteen days; Missouri, fifty-five days; Southern Illinois, forty-four days.

Number of appointments: Canada, 40; Pennsylvania, 32; Missouri, 79; Southern Illinois, 55.

Number of accessions to the church, 18. Distance traveled in the work, 5,365 miles.

Elder D. M. Miller reported — days of labor in Minnesota. Number of accessions, four.

Elders E. Eby and Joseph W. Trostle report of labor one week on a prospective tour in Minnesota. No accessions.

Elder J. W. Wilt reported his field of labor in Clearfield county, Pa. Number of accessions, four.



Elder J. R. Gish reported his field of labor from Southern Missouri and Arkansas. Time, about three months. No accessions reported.

### Expense Reports.

Elder J. Wise, trip to Canada, .....	\$ 70 64	
Elder J. Wise, trip to Missouri, .....	32 95	
Elder J. Wise, trip to Southern Illinois, .....	22 44	
Total, .....	\$ 126 03	
Elder D. M. Miller, to Minnesota, .....		\$ 33 36
Elder J. W. Wilt, to Clearfield, Pa., .....		20 00
Elder J. W. Trostle, to Minnesota, .....		20 00
Elder Enoch Eby, to Minnesota, .....		10 00
Elder J. R. Gish, to Arkansas, .....		.....

Total Receipts of Domestic Mission, \$960 96

### Expenses Paid.

To Elder J. Wise for time and traveling expenses, \$	350 00	
To Elder D. M. Miller, .....	33 36	
To Elder J. W. Wilt, .....	20 00	
To J. W. Trostle, .....	20 00	
To Enoch Eby, .....	10 00	
Expenses of Board, .....	47 00	
For tracts sent by H. R. Holsinger, .....	2 15	
Expenses for postal cards, stamps, etc., .....	5 00	
Paid to Elder J. R. Gish, .....		
Paid to Elder J. W. Beer, .....		
		\$ 487 51
		\$ 473 45

### Danish Mission.

Receipts for Danish Fund for two years, closing to date, .....	\$1800 00	
For brother Hope's family and the poor in Denmark, .....	182 88	
		\$1982 88
Total expenditures for brother Hope and family, and the poor, and the spread of the Gospel,...		\$1900 90
		\$ 82 88

By brother Hope's request the Mission Board offer the following suggestions to sustain the Danish Mission:

1. By permitting brother Hope to rent a hall for preaching.
2. An appropriation to continue the publishing of the Danish paper.



3. For a continuance of funds for his co-laborers, for their sustenance and encouragement in the cause in Denmark.

Respectfully submitted,

James Quinter, Treas.

S. T. Bosserman, Secretary.

The Moderator informed the council that the money that was held by brother Quinter was paid over to the Berlin Committee, as his receipts showed.

There was a request from the North Eastern District of Kansas for the Annual Meeting of 1883. There being some difficulty in the way of complying with the request, by a resolution of the meeting the matter was left with the officers of the Standing Committee. They will confer with the brethren in Kansas and report in due time.

The following resolution was then passed:

Resolved: That this meeting return a vote of thanks, first, to the brethren and sisters of Northern Indiana for the very satisfactory arrangements for this meeting; second, to the citizens for the hospitality they have shown during this meeting; third, to the railroad companies for their satisfactory accommodations.

The meeting then closed with devotional exercises.

Standing Committee: Jesse Crosswhite, Joel Naff, John Eller, Daniel Baker, D. B. Arnold, J. Reiff, Joseph Leedy, Jer. Gump, Isaac Miller, D. E. Price, D. P. Saylor, D. Long, N. Martin, C. Bucher, J. Quinter, J. I. Cover, G. Irvin, J. C. McMullen, Joseph Kauffman, G. W. Studabaker, D. Vaniman, John Wise, S. S. Mohler, S. A. Honberger, John Thomas, Michael Sisler, A. Hutchison, Henry Brubaker, L. Hillery, John Forney.

E. Eby, Moderator; J. Quinter, Clerk; J. Wise, Reading Clerk; J. S. Holsinger, Doorkeeper.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1883.

Bismarck Grove, Douglas Co., Kans.

On Friday, May 11th, the Standing Committee met and organized by electing Enoch Eby, Moderator; James Quinter, Writing Clerk; John Wise, Reading Clerk, and J. S. Flory, Door Keeper.

There were enrolled 270 delegates, representing more than that number of Churches, as some delegates represented more than one Church.

On Tuesday morning the public council was opened as usual, by devotional exercises. The following subjects were then presented in the order of business, considered in the fear of the Lord, and decided upon as herein stated:



1. Will District Meeting petition Annual Meeting through the Standing Committee to provide that no public appeals for funds for any purpose be made at our Annual Meetings, except by consent of the Standing Committee, and that requests for this purpose be first presented to Committee of Arrangements, and by it submitted to the Standing Committee for consideration.

The petition was granted by Annual Meeting.

2. A woman being seduced by a young man, marries him, but he does not live with her nor provide for her, but takes up with other women, and tells her she may take up with other men. After a while he makes application for a divorce, which she permits him to get. He then marries again, and is living in the west. She also marries again, and gets under conviction, and makes application to be received into church fellowship. Now what is to be done in her case, to be in line of duty according to the gospel?

Answer: We adopt the decision of Annual Meeting of 1880, article 2nd.

3. Will District Meeting petition Annual Meeting to consider the following: Is it right according to the gospel and the order of our general brotherhood to receive members into the church who have been baptized by expelled ministers, or such as have left the church and joined in with the "Old Order" or "Progressive" churches, without re-baptizing them? If this is understood to be right, how will it be with those who have been baptized by ministers who have never been baptized into our church, and were never known as members of the body?

This petition was considered by Annual Meeting, and the following answer given to it: Answer. We decide that none can be received into the church without being baptized by a legally authorized administrator of the German Baptist brethren.

4. Papers from nine different Districts were presented to the meeting upon the Mandatory Decision of 1882, in some a modification of the said decision was asked for, and in others, a repeal of it. The Standing Committee framed the following answer to the requests of the papers, and upon being presented to the meeting was adopted by it:

All queries sent to Annual Meeting for decision shall in all cases be decided according to the Scriptures, where there is any direct "thus saith the Lord" applying to the question, and all questions to which there is no express Scriptures applying, shall be decided according to the spirit and meaning of the Scripture, and



that decision shall be the rule of all the churches for such cases as the decisions cover, and all members who will hinder or oppose such decision shall be held as not hearing the church, and shall be dealt with accordingly. The decision shall not be so construed as to prevent the Annual Meeting from giving advice when it deems it proper to do so, and that given advice, shall be so entered upon the minutes.

5. We, the Brethren of the Middle District of Indiana, ask Annual Meeting to establish one mode of feet-washing, and to have the supper either off or on the table at the time of feet-washing.

Answer: We desire very much to see a uniform practice in the Church. But we see no way of accomplishing that object at the present time in the practices referred to in the query.

6. We petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to decide that the standing of a member of the Brethren Church shall not be affected by any action of a Committee or Congregation, unless the charges against such members shall have been previously specified and presented to him or her in writing, signed by a member or members of the Brethren Church. This decision based on Matt. 7: 12.

Answer: We grant the above decision. Sent to Annual Meeting.

The above petition was considered, but the subject was deferred by the Meeting.

7. The First St. Louis Brethren Church hereby requests Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to say to whom St. Louis Meeting-house shall be deeded.

Answer: We decide that the St. Louis Meeting-house be deeded to the officers, the moderator, and the clerks of Annual Meeting, and their successors in office, as representatives or trustees of the General Brotherhood, in the name of the German Baptist Brethren Church.

8. Inasmuch as Annual Meeting has granted the Brethren the privilege of insuring their property, and as we fail to see the difference between property and life insurance, and whereas Brethren are indulging in life insurance thereby causing trouble, we then ask Annual Meeting of 1883, to either repeal all decisions favoring insurance, or to grant the privilege of life insurance.

Answer: Whereas there are different views on the subject of insurance, therefore resolved that we defer this query indefinitely.

9. Several papers came before the Meeting concerning the



lawing about Meeting-houses, as the troubles in the Brotherhood have involved the question as to what is the proper course to pursue in regard to Meeting-houses when a part of a church has left, or has been expelled. These papers were submitted to a committee that made the following report, which was adopted by the Meeting:

We, your committee, to whom you submitted the papers relative to lawing for church property, find embodied therein the following points:

First. Shall Brethren be allowed to enter a suit relative to church property? Answer. No.

Second. With reference to locking our Meeting-houses, we would say we see no wrong in locking our Meeting-houses, as the Brethren have always enjoyed that privilege.

Third. In reference to sending committees, we cannot recommend the sending of committees to any church, unless one be called for by the church involved in the difficulty, or by the adjoining churches.

E. W. Stoner,  
Jesse Stutzman,  
M. J. McClure,  
J. C. Johnson,  
John Flory,  
D. N. Workman,  
John Zuck.

10. A committee consisting of the following Brethren was appointed, A. Hutchinson, J. S. Snyder, S. A. Shaver, J. L. Berkley, and J. F. Oller, to make provision to defray the expenses of the committee that revised the Minutes: To this committee was given the amount of the expenses of the committee of revision, and then the amount was divided among the different Districts, as will be seen in the report. A report was made by the first committee, and submitted to the General Council, and it was adopted. But as some of the expenses of the committee on revision had not been presented to the first committee, a reconsideration of its report was moved and adopted. And as some of the first committee had left the meeting, there were others appointed in their places. The committee appointed to reconsider the report consisted of the following Brethren: A. Hutchinson, J. S. Snyder, John Thomas, and S. R. Zug. The following amended report was made by the last committee, and adopted by the Meeting:

We, the Committee appointed by Annual Meeting to devise a plan by which the expenses of the Revising Committee of the Minutes may be defrayed, and the respective amount due them for labor and expense. After due investigation and consideration of the several bills presented, we, the committee on finance, concluded



to submit our report to this Annual Meeting for its approval. The respective sums allowed are as follows: B. F. Moomaw, \$15.00; C. Bucher, \$30.00; John Zuck, \$45.00; S. S. Mohler, \$40.00; John Forney, \$15.00; I. J. Rosenberger, \$15.00; Dan'l Hays, \$20.00; Dan'l Chambers, \$50.00; David Bechtelheimer, \$20.00; D. Vaniman, \$10.00; Geo. Bowman, \$20.00. (Aggregating \$295.00.) We set forth here the assessment of the Districts of each State: Pennsylvania—East district, \$25.00; Middle district, \$40.00; West district, \$15.00. Maryland—East district, \$15.00; West district, \$15.00. Virginia—First district, \$10.00; Second district, \$30.00. West Virginia—First district, \$5.00; Second district, \$5.00. Tennessee district, \$10.00. Ohio—Northwestern district, \$25.00; Northeastern district, \$20.00; Southern district, \$25.00. Indiana—West district, \$30.00; Middle district, \$30.00; Southern district, \$20.00. Illinois—Northern district, \$30.00; Southern district, \$20.00. Iowa—Northern district, \$10.00; Middle district, \$10.00; Southern district, \$10.00. Michigan, \$5.00. Missouri—Northern district, \$10.00; Southern district, \$15.00. Kansas—Exempt. Nebraska, \$10.00. Total, \$440.00. We further agree and urge that the Treasurers of the several Districts notify the Elders of all the local churches to collect their respective sums, and the District Treasurer pay over the amount collected to the Treasurer or Receiver this Annual Meeting may appoint.

The foreman of the Revision Committee, B. F. Moomaw, presented the Revised Minutes to the Meeting. The work was re-committed to the following members of the original committee, to be completed and published, that the churches may have an opportunity of examining the Revised Minutes before next A. M., when they will be considered and acted upon: S. S. Mohler, John Zuck, and Christian Bucher.

Andrew Hutchison, Centerview, Johnson County, Mo., is the Treasurer for receiving and paying out the funds to meet the expenses of Revision Committee.

11. Inasmuch as the frequent and much advertising of Colleges and College work, through our church papers, and reference to those who after they have graduated were elected to office in the church, has hurt the feelings of some of our Brethren and friends, some of whom refuse to subscribe for the papers because of this College matter being therein. Also, many are grieved because of those advertisements that appear in our church papers, we, the District Meeting of N. W. Kansas and Colorado, petition Annual Meeting to call the attention of our Editors to this matter, and demand that they be more careful, and if there is a vital necessity for such things, let the interested parties print a College reporter and thus free our church papers from such an objectionable feature.

Answer: While we would admonish our Editors to use care in these things, at the same time we think our Brethren should not be too sensitive, but exercise the spirit of forbearance, especially as



we think there has been much improvement since our last Annual Meeting.

12. Several petitions were presented to the Meeting asking for a plan by which we may have a permanent building fund for building Meeting-houses. These papers were submitted to a committee, and said committee made the following report, which was accepted by the Meeting:

We, your Committee to whom was submitted the papers on Meeting-house or Building Fund, after prayerful consideration, beg leave to offer the following for the adoption of Annual Meeting: This Meeting sees the importance of something being done in the matter referred to in the queries. But it also feels the necessity of proceeding cautiously in the matter, therefore lays the matter over for one year, for the prayerful consideration of the Brethren, and appoints a Committee of three Brethren who shall in the meantime formulate a plan and rules of government, to be submitted to next Annual Meeting for its adoption. Signed by Committee.

Samuel Harley,  
Geo. C. Bowman,  
Jesse Studebaker,  
Jos. C. Lahman,  
L. H. Dickey.

13. Resolved. That the paper from N. W. Kansas and Colorado, in regard to general church work, be placed into the hands of the Committee nominated by Bro. Moore, and appointed by the Meeting, to form a plan for raising funds for building Meeting-houses, for their consideration in connection with other matter submitted to said Committee.

The following is the paper referred to in the above resolution:

There being a necessity for a more simple and effective system for the purpose of raising means for general church work, we request that District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to adopt the following plan, in harmony with the Scriptures. See 1 Cor. 16: 1, 2, 3, and 2 Cor. 11: 8.

First. Let the foreman of each church or congregation throughout the Brotherhood at the time of holding their church meetings, (say at least once a quarter) take up a collection or subscription for general church work.

Second. Let the amount so raised be sent up to Annual Meeting by the Delegates, or otherwise, and be reported to the Clerk of Annual Meeting.

Third. Then let the Annual Meeting appoint a Committee to whom shall be reported the amount brought up, and to whom all claims or requests for means to carry on general church work



shall be made, such as Foreign or Home Missions, assisting in building meeting-houses, or any work that the general church may be disposed to assist in or do.

Fourth. Said Committee, after duly considering all such claims or requests, shall suggest an apportionment of the funds to the different branches of church work, as they may in their judgment think best for the furthering of the cause of general church work, and report the same to Annual Meeting before its close, for adoption, rejection or amendment.

Fifth. The Annual Meeting shall appoint a Treasurer to receive the funds sent in, who shall disburse the same in accordance with the instructions resulting from the last preceding clause. He shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting and make his report thereto, accompanied with his receipts.

Sixth. The report of the amount of money sent in from each church to be published in the Minutes.

14. We, the undersigned Committee appointed by the Tennessee District Meeting to confer with the remaining part of the so-called J. A. Bowman church, met at Lick Creek, in Sullivan Co., Tenn., two of their number, namely, A. J. Lilly and John Larmer. After prayerfully considering the differences between them and us, we found them willing to strictly comply with the order of the Church of the Brethren in every particular; they wish to be received into the fellowship of the Church of the Brethren as a body. Their officers to be set apart and installed by the Church of the Brethren. Some of them were baptized before the Committee from the Annual Meeting in 1866 was in Tennessee and received part of said church without re-baptizing them. We, the Committee of the Tenn. District Meeting, prayerfully recommend the Annual Meeting to receive the above for the sake of peace and union here, being authorized by the Tennessee District Meeting to do the best we could, in our wisdom. Signed by the Committee.

Henry Garst,

George C. Bowman.

Answer: We cannot comply with the foregoing request. See decision to query number 4.

The following paper came from the Southern District of Ohio, to the Standing Committee, and it was presented to the General Council for a decision:

15. Inasmuch as our Bro. Elder J. W. Beer, of the Fairview Church, Fayette Co., Ohio, did not regard or respect the decision of the Annual Meeting of 1882, in reference to those who have



been disowned from the Church, therefore I asked District and Annual Meeting what shall be done with Bro. Beer, who has invited disowned members to his Lovefeasts, and they have come to them and not only taken part as members, but have officiated fully in the Lovefeasts and other meetings.

W. D. Mallow, Member.

Answer: We decide that Article 4 of Minutes of 1882, gives the adjoining Elders the right and authority to act in said case with the minority, even to the expulsion of a majority.

16. We, the undersigned Committee appointed by Annual Meeting of 1882, to wait upon S. H. Bashore, in his church, demanding satisfaction from him in relation to the writing of the tracts "Seven Thunders," "Where is Holsinger?" and other schismatic articles, and actively opposing some of our peculiar characteristics, and having ascertained:

First. That S. H. Bashore received his letter of membership from the Ashland City Church, and placed it into the hands of J. W. Beer, who placed it into the Fairview Church, and

Second. That at some time since the 29th of June, 1882, the said S. H. Bashore took his letter out of the Fairview Church and placed it into the Holsinger Church, at Ashland City, and therefore does not hold a membership in any congregation of the general Brotherhood.

And whereas, S. H. Bashore has publicly declared in Progressive Christian No. 23, that he would pay no attention to the Committee, their visit to his home church, or to any decision they may consider it their prerogative to make, and also in same No. declared his eternal separation from that Body of men who dare to raise their decisions upon an equal plain of authority with the precepts of Christ, and charge the Brethren assembled at Milford, Ind., in 1882, of doing a work that was stamped and saturated with the spirit of anti-Christ and the grossest character of infidelity. And whereas further, in Progressive Christian, No. 32, the said S. H. Bashore censured last Annual Meeting for the promulgation of infidel and anti-christian positions, and anti-gospel decisions. And whereas, In Progressive Christian, No. 29, he 1st misrepresents a part of the Committee appointed to wait upon him; and 2nd, the Standing Committee, wherein he declared they added to the Gospel, and preach another Gospel on which salvation depends; and 3rd, the General Brotherhood in many things, especially wherein he declared said Body raised her decisions on a plain equal in authority with the precepts of Christ.



Therefore, We, as your Committee, in view of the above facts, decide that the said S. H. Bashore, cannot be held as a member of the General Brotherhood.

Jesse Stutsman,  
Jos. N. Kauffman.

John Smith,  
D. N. Workman.

The above report was accepted by the Meeting.

17. A number of requests being made by Brethren to collect funds at the Meeting for building Meeting-houses, and for helping a sister who had her house destroyed by a storm, the requests were granted and solicitors appointed to make collections. The amount collected was \$314.03. Bro. D. N. Workman was appointed Treasurer, and M. S. Newcomer, S. Click, J. H. Brumbaugh, D. B. Gibson, and Daniel Zook were appointed a committee to distribute the funds collected.

On motion it was resolved that the Christian Greeting of the Church of the Brethren assembled in Annual Council at Bismarck Grove, Kansas, U. S. of America, be extended to our sister Churches of Europe, also an expression of our approval of their work as far as we are acquainted with it.

Resolved: That the thanks of this Meeting be tendered, 1st, To the Brethren and Sisters of Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska, for the very excellent arrangements made for this Annual Meeting. 2nd, To the Brethren and friends of Lawrence, Kansas, for the hospitality and courtesies extended to us. 3rd, To the Railroads who have given our people low rates of fare, and especially to the Union Pacific R. R., for the use of Bismarck Grove, and for the excellent facilities afforded for our Meeting.

#### COMMITTEES.

1. The Committee to Amwell Church, N. J.: Moses Miller, Samuel Harley, Wm. Hertzler and Christian Bucher.

2. A Committee to Sugar Creek Church, Allen Co., Ohio: R. H. Miller, G. W. Cripe, Jacob Reiff and W. R. Deeter.

3. A Committee to form a plan to collect funds for building Meeting-houses: Daniel Vaniman, S. S. Mohler, W. R. Deeter, E. Eby and John Zuck.

A request was made by the Southern District of Ohio, for the Annual Meeting of 1884, and it was granted.

The Meeting closed with devotional services.

Standing Committee—Ab. Molsbee, B. F. Moomaw, Jacob Thomas, Samuel Myers, S. A. Fike, J. B. Trostle, D. Long, Ch. Bucher, James Quinter, J. S. Holsinger, Noah Longenecker, R. H. Miller, J. C. McMullen, John Smith, Jacob Reiff, W. R. Deeter,



John Brillhart, Daniel Deardorf, John Wise, T. D. Lyon, G. Bollinger, G. Barnhart, C. C. Root, Isaac Barto, W. Wyland, John Earley, D. Bechtelheimer, Wm. Gish, M. T. Baer, and G. W. Fesler.

Moderator—E. Eby.

Clerk—James Quinter.

Reading Clerk—J. Wise.

Doorkeeper—J. S. Flory.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF 1884.

Near Dayton, O.

On Friday, May 30th, the Standing Committee met and organized by electing Enoch Eby, Moderator; James Quinter, Writing Clerk; John Wise, Reading Clerk. There were enrolled 297 delegates besides those that constituted the Standing Committee.

On Tuesday morning the General Council was opened as usual, by devotional exercises. The committees and delegates then presented, for the consideration of the Meeting, the following subjects, which were prayerfully considered in the fear of the Lord, and decided upon as herein stated:

I. The first subject that came before the Meeting was that of the Revised Minutes. At the Annual Meeting of 1883, the Revision Committee that had been appointed by the Meeting of 1882, reported, and presented to the Meeting their work. This was re-committed to a committee of three brethren, who were a part of the first committee, to be published, that the churches could examine it by the time the Annual Meeting of 1884 would meet, when the final disposition of the subject was to be made. Hence it came up as the first business of the meeting. The Revised Minutes were presented to the Meeting by Brother B. F. Moomaw, who was the foreman of the Revision Committee of 1882. The subject was very fully discussed, and in due time submitted to the Meeting for its decision, and it decided against the Revised Minutes.

And as it was known that a classified copy of the Minutes of Annual Meeting had been prepared by one of the committee, two District Meetings sent a request to Annual Meeting, asking it to accept the classified copy of the Minutes of Annual Meeting, to which the above allusion is made. The request of the District Meetings were submitted to a committee, which made the following report to the General Council:

We, the undersigned committee authorized to revise the Minutes of Annual Meeting, having so far executed our work as to



present a copy to the Brotherhood through Annual Meeting, which has now been under examination for one year, and now ready for the final decision, and whereas there is a possibility that it may not be approved, so as to be adopted, and there being in our possession a copy prepared by one of our number, compiled under a classified system, which we now agree (that in case the printed copy now before us should fail to be adopted), to submit to the Brotherhood, through the Annual Meeting, in the name of the committee, for examination during the coming year, then to be submitted to the Annual Meeting of 1885 for approval or rejection.

B. F. Moomaw,  
J. Bechtelheimer,  
S. S. Mohler,  
John Forney,  
Geo. C. Bowman.

The above report after being duly considered, was rejected by the meeting.

II. The Committee on Missions and Church Building, appointed by the Annual Meeting of 1883, made the following report, which was accepted:

We, the undersigned Committee appointed by General Conference of 1883, to formulate a plan for general church erection and missionary work, respectfully submit the following:

1st. We recommend that a committee of five brethren be appointed, living sufficiently near each other for frequent consultation: part of whom shall be lay members, part deacons, and part ministers, and not more than two of either; and this Committee shall be known as, "The General Church Erection and Missionary Committee."

2nd. That said Committee be nominated by Standing Committee and approved by General Conference, and shall serve for a term of three years, except the members first appointed, two of whom shall serve for one year, two for two years, and one for three years.

3rd. That said Committee shall meet as often as necessary to carry on its work successfully, and shall elect its own officers, make its own by-laws, fill all vacancies that may incidentally occur in the committee and recommend to General Conference for adoption, anything necessary to forward its work.

4th. That the object of this committee is, and shall be, to build, or assist in building plain houses of worship, and to send suitable brethren to preach the Gospel, distribute tracts, and to organize and build up churches where there are favorable openings. All expenses, both of committee and of brethren sent out on church work, to be paid out of the funds collected.

5th. That each State District be urged to have some effective church erection and missionary plan of its own to assist weak churches in its own territory to build plain houses of worship, and to preach the Gospel where there are favorable openings; and the general committee may assist but shall in no way interfere with any building or missionary work carried on by any district or in-



dividual church, and any church situated in a State District, in order to get help through the general committee must apply to, and build under the directions of the district committee, and any district committee unable to meet all such calls may apply to, and receive help from the general committee.

6th. That the general committee shall, quarterly or oftener, circulate through the Brotherhood, a printed report explanatory of the nature and progress of its work, and shall annually submit a report of all its work to General Conference for approval.

7th. That Standing Committee shall annually inspect, or cause to be inspected, the report of the general committee before it is submitted to General Conference, and shall assist the committee in developing any necessary improvements for advancing the work.

#### How to Raise the Means.

1st. Let each member, at all able to do so, give for general church erection and mission work, one cent, or more, if able, each week, according as the Lord has prospered him, upon the principle taught in 1 Cor. 16: 1, 2.

2nd. Let each congregation throughout the Brotherhood adopt some plan to solicit each member at least twice each year, and receive such offerings and forward the same to the treasurer of the general committee, who shall receipt for the amount, and report it through the quarterly report, and to General Conference, in connection with the amount raised and expended by each State district in their district work.

Committee: Daniel Vaniman, W. R. Deeter, S. S. Mohler, Enoch Eby, John Zuck.

III. Whereas the brethren in California had H. R. Holsinger to come and preach for them, they endorsing his preaching, does not this District Meeting think it best to see after those brethren? We, the brethren of Oregon District do ask Annual Meeting to look after those brethren.

Answer: This meeting hereby appoint Joel Sherfy and David Barklow of Oregon, to visit the brethren in California, to set in order the things that are wanting. And as Bro. E. Eby contemplates going there, we appoint him, if he should go, to act with the above named brethren. And the expenses are to be referred to next Annual Meeting.

IV. Will the Northern Missouri District Meeting request Annual Meeting that no papers similar to others which have answers shall be entered on the Minutes, but returned to the District which sent it, unless a contrary or modified answer can be given.

The Annual Meeting considers it best not to grant this request.

V. We the Grundy County Church ask District Meeting of Northern Iowa and Minnesota, to petition Annual Meeting to in-



augurate a mission in Germany, by sending monthly to that country, as many copies of *Der Bruderbote*, as may be deemed proper and as may be used to advantage.

The above petition was accepted, and referred to the Missionary Board.

VI. We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to authorize the Standing Committee to appoint legal trustees to receive donations made to Annual Meeting for church property and other purposes.

Answer: Such requests may be made to the officers of the Annual Meeting, the Moderator and clerks and their successors in office, or to trustees appointed by the donor in the local congregation.

VII. In as much as the use of ardent spirits cause much trouble and misery in our country, and we as a body of Christian believers advocate temperance and oppose the use of intoxicating drinks. Will not this District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to petition the General Government to enact a law to prevent the manufacture of ardent spirits, and to prevent the importation of the same into the United States.

Answer: Considered best not to petition Congress as requested, but we should continue to labor earnestly in the church against this and all other evils.

VIII. Is it right according to the Gospel, see John 17: 14, 15, 16, first Thes. 5: 22, for members to make those birthday dinners or suppers, which are so highly esteemed among the world. And both members and other joining together in feasting, and perhaps talking about worldly matters (as those feasts in their nature are inclined to draw out the mind in that direction) and afterwards publish some of those occasions in the *G. M.*, thereby wounding the feelings of many members?

Answer: No, not right as the principles of the Gospel (Luke 14: 13) are almost universally violated. And the editors of our periodicals should be restricted from publishing reports of vain feasting. Passed.

IX. Whereas, Bro. Hope is carrying on a very successful missionary work in Denmark. And, whereas there is now a way opened to plant the cause in Sweden, as appears in No. 18 of *Gospel Messenger*, and as Bro. Hope has a brother qualified to carry on the work in Sweden, therefore, we petition Annual Meeting to authorize Bro. Hope to send said brother to Sweden with



the word of life. And further, that he receive such support from the churches in America as his circumstances may demand.

Answer: The petition is accepted, and the Missionary Board is advised to help the foreign mission as soon as it is in its power to do so.

X. In regard to the case of J. W. Beers, that came before the meeting for confirmation, it was decided, that Annual Meeting recognizes and accepts the work of the elders and district meeting of Southern Ohio, in regard to the expulsion of J. W. Beers, but advises the elders to return to said church and finish their work.

XI. The Middle District of Pennsylvania requests Annual Meeting to consider the propriety of having the Brethren Church represented at the next Annual National Peace Convention by delegates elected by Annual Meeting.

Answer: We refer this case to the Minutes of Annual Meeting of 1875, Art. 13. This Article is as follows: "Our church itself being a peace association, we need not, as a body, coöperate with others, but we may, as individuals, give our influence in favor of peace."

XII. Is the primary object of the ordinance of anointing, (Jas. 5: 13, 15) for the healing of bodily diseases?

Answer: We defer this question until 1885, for a thorough examination and answer.

XIII. The churches in Denmark respectfully request Annual Meeting to allow such additional amounts as may seem good to them, to pay the traveling expenses of the home ministers in the work of the church.

XIV. Submitted to the Church Extension Board: E. Eby and C. P. Rowland, for one year; D. Vaniman and S. Riddleberger, for two years; D. L. Miller, for three years.

XV. Requests for committees to settle difficulties in churches.

1st. A committee to the Grove church in Miami Co., Ohio: R. H. Miller, Jacob Reiff, L. West, J. H. Caylor, and S. T. Bosserman.

Below is a statement of the amounts received by me, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the committee appointed to revise the Minutes of our Annual Meeting:

North Missouri, per J. Bosserman, .....	\$10.00
Tennessee, per Geo. C. Bowman, .....	10.00
East, Pa., per J. B. Gible, .....	25.00
Southern Ills., per John Neher, .....	20.00



Southern Ohio, per S. Mohler, .....	\$25.00	
Middle Iowa, per J. S. Snyder, .....	10.00	
Nebraska, per J. R. Cripe, .....	10.00	
Michigan, per E. Bosserman, .....	5.00	
Western Md., per D. Long, .....	15.00	
First Dist. of Va., per B. F. Moomaw, .....	10.00	
Second Dist. of Va., per S. A. Shaver, .....	30.00	
N. E. Ohio, per Fred. Kohler, .....	20.00	
Middle Pa., per Jacob Hollinger, .....	40.00	
Northern Ind., per H. Forney, .....	26.00	
Southern Iowa, per Geo. S. Wine, .....	10.00	
Southern Mo., per S. Click, .....	11.50	
Southern Ills., per C. P. Rowland, .....	30.00	
Western Pa., per C. G. Lint, .....	15.00	
N. W. Ohio, per L. H. Dickey, .....	25.00	
Eastern Md., per Geo. Leatherman, .....	15.00	
Middle Ind., per D. S. T. Putterbaugh, .....	23.00	\$385.50

The following is a list of the amounts paid out, and to whom paid:

John Zuck, .....	\$45.00	
Daniel Chambers, .....	50.00	
David Bechtleheimer, .....	20.00	
John Forney, .....	15.00	
J. J. Rosenbarger, .....	15.00	
Daniel Hays, .....	20.00	
Geo. C. Bowman, .....	20.00	
C. Bucher, .....	45.00	
S. S. Mohler, .....	60.00	
Daniel Vanieman, .....	10.00	
B. F. Moomaw, .....	15.00	
Balance on hand June 6th, 1884, .....	70.50	\$385.50

A. Hutchison, Treasurer.

### Report of Missionary Board.

Miller's Crossing, Montgomery Co., Ohio, June 5th, 1884.

Foreign and Domestic Missionary Board met pursuant to adjournment. Members present, Elds. James Quinter, E. Eby, Joseph Leedy and S. T. Bosserman. Absent, D. E. Brubaker. Meeting called to order with Elder Eby in the chair.

1st. Business of meeting, reading letters of invitation, appeals, and expenses of missionary workers.

2nd. Request from the Brethren at Gainesville, Texas, for preaching, and the following brethren were selected to go on said mission. Said selection referred to Standing Committee.

3rd. Appeal to the General Brotherhood from the church at St. Louis, Mo., by Elder R. K. Berkybile, for tracts and books for distribution to further on the work. Referred to the Missionary Board newly elected.



4th. Request from Bros. M. M. Eshelman and Riddlesberger, of White Rock, Kansas, for some moneys out of the general missionary fund to liquidate expenses of missionary labors. Resolved, that Bro. Quinter correspond with the above named brethren relative to the expenses of said work, and remit the funds found necessary.

5th. Report of Elder J. Wilt, of Altoona, Pa., for expenses for missionary work in Pa. Amount of expenses \$25.00. Said report accepted and ordered paid.

### Treasurer's Report.

Amount collected for Danish Mission during the past		
four years, .....	\$3,194.29	
For Sisters Hope and Family, .....	157.50	
For benefit of Young Danish Brothers, .....	62.85	
For benefit of the poor in Denmark, .....	21.25	
For the building of Meeting Houses, .....	2,557.71	\$5,993.60
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Amount forwarded to Brother Hope, .....	\$5,520.00	
Balance on Hand, .....	473.60	\$5,993.60
Amount collected for Home Missionary Work in		
past four years, .....		\$1,072.11
Amount paid out as represented in 1882, .....	\$ 487.51	
Amount paid out since last report in 1882 to M. M.		
Eshelman, .....	37.00	
G. R. Gish, .....	47.00	
G. Bolinger, .....	9.80	
S. S. Mohler, .....	100.00	
J. W. Wilt, .....	40.00	
Amount paid out to Danish Brother, .....	35.00	
Balance on Hand, .....	315.80	\$1,072.11

James Quinter, Treasurer.

To the Annual Meeting at Miller's Crossing, June 5th, 1884. —Your committee respectfully report that we have carefully examined the books of Bro. John Metzger, Treasurer St. Louis meeting-house fund, and find them to be correct. He received \$3,789.62, and expended \$3,746.47, leaving a balance on hand of \$43.15. And, whereas, Bro. Metzger has not charged a penny for his time and labor, and has paid his own traveling expenses, we recommend that this balance be paid over to him to defray in part his expenses. And we feel that the thanks of the brotherhood are due to Bro. Metzger for his zeal and labor in the work.

D. L. Miller,  
Landon West,  
G. A. Shamberger.

On Motion the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved: That the thanks of this meeting be tendered—



1st. To the brethren and sisters who so abundantly provided for the comfort of those in attendance at this meeting.

2nd. To the citizens of Dayton and vicinity for their generous hospitality in entertaining our members.

3rd. To the several religious denominations in the city of Dayton, for the use of their churches.

4th. To the various railroad companies for their very generous favors shown to our members coming to this meeting.

5th. To Bro. Miller for the use of his farm.

The meeting closed with devotional services.

Standing Committee: Eli Renner, John Forney, M. Sisler, W. B. Sell, Daniel Vanieman, D. E. Price, J. H. Miller, Hiel Hamilton, L. H. Dickey, C. G. Lint, J. Quinter, D. Long, S. Buckalew, B. F. Moomaw, H. Garst, Sidney Hodgen, David Bechtelheimer, S. Flory, S. S. Mohler, Edmund Forney, E. Bosserman, R. H. Miller, Jacob Garber, N. Longenecker, S. Harley, G. Leatherman, I. Long, J. W. Eller, D. D. Derrick.

E. Eby, Moderator; J. Quinter, Clerk; J. Wise, Reading Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1885.

Mexico, Juniata Co., Pa.

On Friday, May 22nd, the Standing Committee met and organized by electing John Wise, Moderator; James Quinter, Writing Clerk; and W. R. Deeter, Reading Clerk.

On Tuesday morning the General Council was opened as usual, by devotional exercises. The committees and delegates then presented for the consideration of the Meeting, the following subjects, which were prayerfully considered in the fear of the Lord, and decided upon as herein stated:

I. The first question considered was the 12th question on the Minutes of 1884, as this question had been deferred. The question is as follows: "Is the primary object of the ordinance of anointing, (Jas. 5: 13-15) for the healing of bodily diseases?"

Answer: This meeting does not see proper to express an opinion on this question.

II. Whereas the Skating Rink has become a popular amusement throughout the country, Resolved, that we look upon it as an evil endangering the morals of those who frequent them, and that our ministers are urged to warn the people against them.

III. As there were several papers before the Meeting relating



to the management of the Annual Meeting, they were submitted to a committee which made the following report, and it was accepted by the meeting:

1. The meeting should be held where there are good railroad facilities, and where the Committee of Arrangements can procure sufficient and suitable lodging quarters at reasonable rates.

2. Meals to be furnished at the uniform price of 25 cents each.

3. The dining hall or halls to be so arranged and conducted that the Standing Committee and delegates may have the usual services at the table where they eat.

4. A lunch stand to be also provided for the sale of refreshments.

We also recommend economy in the management of the meeting, and caution our brethren against making the Annual Meeting an occasion of money making.

We further recommend that our members continue to perpetuate and maintain their well-earned reputation for Christian hospitality by opening their houses and barns free of charge for sleeping purposes to visiting members on their Pentecostal meeting.

All surplus funds should be turned over to the Church Erection and Missionary Committee.

All former decisions of Annual Meeting in any way conflicting with the above, are hereby repealed.

J. H. Moore,  
Saml. H. Myers,  
Danl. Vaniman,  
S. W. Hoover,  
S. S. Mohler.

IV. Whereas, at our last Annual Meeting, held at Dayton, Ohio, a petition was presented, asking that we, as a church, join in asking Congress to pass a law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, and

Whereas, It was decided by said Annual Meeting, that we could not so join in a petition without compromising some of our principles, and

Whereas, Said decision has been misconstrued to the detriment of the Church, and her position on the temperance question misunderstood and misrepresented. Therefore

Resolved: That we, assembled in Annual Meeting, re-affirm our strict adherence to the principles of temperance as laid down in the Gospel, and repeatedly affirmed by our beloved Brotherhood, heretofore, beginning as far back as 1783, when our Brethren first took a decided stand against the manufacture and sale of intoxicants, and that we will use all lawful Gospel means to suppress and eradicate this great evil from our land.

V. A request that District Meeting petition Annual Meeting of 1885, to re-consider Article 19 of Minutes of 1880, and so



amend that no brother shall be allowed to serve with Standing Committee as moderator or clerk more than twice in four years.

Granted.

The Annual Meeting confirmed the answer of the District Meeting, by the following resolution: Resolved, that we pass the query from Ohio with its answer, and that it is considered a sufficient answer to the query from the First District of Virginia on the same subject.

VI. A minister is expelled from the church; afterwards received into membership, obtains a certificate, and moves into another State. Is it according to the Gospel and general usages of the church to elect and install him to the ministry without the consent of the church that deposed him from his office?

Answer: No.

VII. Requests having come before the meeting for a plan for a Book and Tract Organization, the following plan was adopted:

Art. 1. This Committee shall be called the Brethren's Book and Tract Committee; and shall have for its object the dissemination of the principles of the Gospel of Christ, through the distribution of tracts and other publications, both in this and foreign countries; in families, in cities, towns, and country; in cars, depots and reading rooms; on board of outgoing and incoming vessels; in short, everywhere as means for publication and facilities for judicious dissemination can be secured.

Art. 2. The Standing Committee of Annual Meeting shall nominate and Annual Meeting approve and perpetuate, an Executive Committee of six members living sufficiently near each other for frequent consultation: to serve for a term of three years, except the members first appointed, two of whom shall serve one year, two, two years, and two, three years. Said Committee shall select its own officers, make its own by-laws, procure, and distribute tracts, and other publications upon best available methods; fill all incidental vacancies occurring in the Committee; inform Standing Committee each year whose time has expired, and make an annual report of its work including receipts and expenditures, with all necessary suggestions to Annual Meeting through Standing Committee, which shall inspect, or cause said report to be carefully inspected.

Art. 3. The funds of the Committee shall consist of bequests, free-will offerings, money received on life interests and from sale of publications.

Art. 4. In order to promote the object of the Committee, each church in the brotherhood is hereby requested to appoint one or more home agents to solicit aid and assist in distributing the publications of the Committee. The home agents shall forward the means to the Treasurer as collected; fill out blanks furnished, and present them quarterly to the church for approval and then to the Corresponding Secretary of the Committee.



Art. 5. Each church shall be entitled to draw any of the publications of the Committee through her home agents, equal in value to half the sum paid during the year. All claims for publication not presented during the year shall expire May 1st of each year.

Art. 6. Any person paying at one time twenty or more dollars to promote the object of the Committee, shall be entitled to draw annually from the Committee a printed report of its work, and any other of its publications to the value of one dollar for each twenty dollars paid.

Art. 7. The S. C. shall nominate, and the Annual Meeting confirm, a committee of five faithful and well-informed Brethren, whose duty it will be to examine and approve all works to be published and distributed by the committee.

VIII. We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to say whether the practice of observing the communion in immediate connection with the Lord's Supper is according to the Gospel? See Matt. 26: 26; Mark 14: 22.

Answer: As the interpretation attached to this query is not accepted by this meeting, and as the present practice is fully supported by the Gospel, (see 1 Cor. 11: 23-26; Luke 22: 19, 20; John 13: 31-35), and as the query seeks a change in the manners of observing the ordinances without attempting to disprove the present practice of our Brotherhood, we decide to make no change.

IX. We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to say whether the practice of sisters breaking the bread and passing the cup of communion to each other, the same as the brethren do, is in harmony with the Gospel?

Answer: Since Annual Meeting by Art. 7, 1879, rendered a decision on the subject of this query, we therefore postpone it indefinitely.

X. Will District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to grant the privilege to publish the Minutes of Annual Meeting as classified by Elder S. S. Mohler?

Answer: We grant the privilege.

XI. Will the Middle District of Iowa in conference May 8th, ask Annual Meeting to adopt a form of plain simple rules that we may all understand, instead of Parliamentary usages, in the government of our District and Annual Meetings?

Answer: We think it best not to adopt the rules asked for.

XII. Inasmuch as Annual Meeting has decided against the use of the Brethren's Hymnal in the church in time of worship, Art. 20, 1873, also Art. 25, 1874, and the Brethren's Publishing Co.



urge the use of them, and some congregations do use them, which is inconsistent, we ask this Annual Meeting to adopt some measures by which this inconsistency may be removed.

Answer: Art. 20, 1873, and Art. 25, 1874, refer to the tune and hymn book, the publishing of which was an infringement of the copyright of the Brethren's Hymn Book, and not to the present Brethren's Hymnal. There is, therefore, no inconsistency between said decision and the use of the Hymnal. Hence the Brethren may consistently use it.

XIII. To the Middle District Conference of Iowa, greeting: Will not this meeting petition Annual Meeting of 1885 to incorporate a clause in the general missionary plan that said board shall be requested and empowered to locate if possible a minister wherever a prospect or opening is found to build a church of the Brethren?

Answer: Granted by Annual Meeting.

XIV. Does Matt. 18 give the rule for proceeding in all offenses whatever?

12. Answer: No, according to 1 Tim. 5: 20; 1 Cor. 5: 4, 5, 11,

XV. We, the brethren of the New Haven church, petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, as follows: Since Annual Meeting has advised churches to move cautiously in regard to receiving such into the church that have separated for the cause of fornication, and marry again; and as such have been received, who gave evidence of being the innocent party, can such be elected to either the office of deacon or minister?

12. Answer: We think not, according to Titus 1: 6; 1 Tim. 3:

XVI. As the peace of congregations depends largely in a proper administration of church government; and, whereas, ability to rule well is made a condition of ordination according to 1 Tim. 2: 5, 9, we, therefore, ask the District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting to authorize that hereafter all ordinations of Elders shall first have the approval of a majority of the Elders of the State District in which the ordination is to be performed, which approval can be obtained by the Elder in charge, through writing, or by private consultation, and thereupon submit the proposed ordination to the local congregation for approval or appointment, as heretofore; and that said approval, both of the Elders and congregation,



shall rest on the qualifications set forth in the Scripture alluded to.

Answer: Considered that we have sufficient for ordaining Elders in former decisions.

XVII. The brethren of the James Creek church ask the District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting to abandon its annual assembling, and to substitute a triennial assembling.

Answer: We consider it best to make no change at present.

XVIII. Whereas, the intention of the Annual Meeting of 1882, in recommending the consolidation of the several papers published by our brethren, was to promote the peace of our Brotherhood, and to have said papers recognized as an official church paper; now, to realize fully the intention of Annual Meeting, and to give the "Gospel Messenger" the proper official [sanction], and thus place the responsibility of its contents where it properly belongs, will District Moderator petition Annual Meeting of 1885 to have the Standing Committee appoint, subject to the approval of Annual Meeting, three brethren of age and experience as a committee, whose names on the paper shall represent the Brotherhood, to serve for three years, beginning with one to serve one year, one for two years and one for three years, whose duty shall be to counsel and advise with the editors, so as to have the paper (1) To represent and defend the doctrines, ordinances and principles of the Gospel; (2) To sustain the work of Annual Meeting on these subjects; (3) To sustain the work of Annual Meeting on the principles and form of our church government but shall in no case seek to control the finances of the paper: and all vacancies occurring in the committee shall be filled by the ensuing Annual Meeting; (4) The Committee and editors to be amenable to Annual Meeting only when matter not in harmony with the intention and work of Annual Meeting appears in the paper and then only on the following provisions, viz.:

(a) The committee shall hear cause of complaint on matter appearing in the paper, but all cause of complaint under sections 1, 2 and 3 of this paper shall first be presented to the congregation where the member complaining resides, and if said congregation considers said complaint of sufficient importance, it shall forward same to the committee for correction by publication through the paper in which the cause of complaint appeared, but if the committee fail to have satisfaction rendered, then said congregation shall proceed according to Art. 17, Min. Annual Meeting 1882, amended to read as follows, viz.:



(b) Let the local church send the complaint, with the statement of its failure to have it corrected, to its ensuing District Meeting.

(c) If District Meeting considers complaint of sufficient importance to require an action, then it shall send the complaint to Annual Meeting, and appoint a brother to represent said District Meeting in the case; said District Meeting shall also inform the committee and editors of its action, and notify them to appear at Annual Meeting to defend themselves.

(d) Annual Meeting shall then appoint, through the Standing Committee, a committee to hear the case, before whom the representative from said District Meeting shall appear and make a statement of the case, and the committee and editors shall have the privilege of answering to complaint before said committee. The committee shall then make a decision, and report to Annual Meeting while in session for approval, amendment or rejection.

(e) If, however, the editors refuse to accept the action of Annual Meeting in the case, while Annual Meeting is yet in session, their refusal shall be deemed cause to declare the loss of official sanction of their paper, and it shall cease to be considered a Brethren's Church paper; but nothing herein shall be construed to hinder contributors from appealing direct to the Editors in behalf of communications sent for publication; or to require the Editors to publish communications sent.

(5) The provisions herein set forth shall be held to apply to all church or religious papers published by members of our Fraternity, and the right to publish additional church papers shall rest with the Annual Meeting, to which petitions for such privilege shall first be presented. Answer: Yes; we so petition.

The above passed the Meeting, amended so that the Committee shall be elected by the delegates and Standing Committee, and that they shall be elected in the same way as adopted by the Standing Committee, at this meeting, to elect its officers.

XIX. When members remove from one congregation to another, and do not present their letters of membership, which congregation shall declare their fellowship dissolved, the one they removed from, or the one they reside in?

Answer: The church from which they remove, after being notified of the fact, shall declare them disfellowshipped.

XX. Has a congregation a right to withhold letters of membership from members removing from one congregation to another for a term of one or more years, without giving them a trial to in-



investigate their standing and either expel them, or give them letters, in order that the congregation where such members reside may know whether to fellowship them as members or not?

Answer: A congregation has no such right. And any congregation that shall neglect its duty in such a case, shall fall under the censure of the surrounding elders, and be required to do its duty.

XXI. In order to promote the efficiency of the church in her great work in the world, and as a means of fostering an increased knowledge of the principles of church government, it is important that the elders and ministers of each State District work together in harmony upon all subjects which may arise within the bounds of each District respectively that bears upon or operates against the precepts and principles of the Gospel, and thus carry more fully into effect the principles of our church government according to Eph. 4: 3, and Phil. 3: 16, we petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to authorize the elders and ministers of each State District to meet in special session at each District Meeting for consultation and agreement upon any matter or question likely to disturb the peace of the churches.

Answer: Not granted.

XXII. Can it not be sufficient, in time of communion seasons, to use the holy kiss at feet-washing, and not as heretofore also before taking of the emblems of the body and blood of Christ? The question is based on the ground that by too frequent use it will for many become a form and not be holy.

Answer: Forasmuch as this practice has existed for over one hundred years without falling into formality, we therefore make no change in the above practice.

#### Committees.

I. The committee to visit the Loraine Church in Southern Illinois, Enoch Eby, Edmund Forney, and Jacob Reiff.

II. The committee appointed to coöperate with the editors: R. H. Miller for three years, S. S. Mohler for two years, and D. Hays for one year.

III. The examining committee for the Book and Tract Committee, Enoch Eby, R. H. Miller, Landon West, B. F. Moomaw, and S. S. Mohler.

IV. The executive committee for the Book and Tract Committee: S. W. Hoover, S. D. Royer, Adam Minnick, B. F. Miller, Jacob Hepner, and Samuel Bock.



S. D. Royer, for three years, S. W. Hoover, for three years, Adam Minnick, for two years, B. F. Miller, for two years, Jacob Hepner, for one year, Samuel Bock, for one year.

V. The committee to fill the vacancies in the Board of Church Erection and Mission Work: J. R. Gish, instead of E. Eby, and E. S. Young, instead of C. P. Rowland.

**Report of the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee to Annual Meeting, Held at Mexico, Pa., May 27, 1885.**

To the General Conference of the Brethren's Church assembled at Mexico, Pa., Greeting:—

The General Church Erection and Missionary Committee respectfully submit the following report of its work for the current year:

The first regular meeting of the Committee was held at Mount Morris, June 13, 1884. At this meeting an organization of the Committee was effected as follows: Foreman, Eld. Enoch Eby; Assistant Foreman, Eld. Daniel Vaniman; Secretary and Treasurer, D. L. Miller.

The Committee thereupon adopted the following by-laws:

1. The officers of the Committee shall consist of a Foreman, an Assistant Foreman, and Secretary and Treasurer.

2. The Foreman shall preside at all meetings of the Committee; or, in case of his absence, the Assistant Foreman shall preside, and shall perform all the duties belonging to that office.

3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary and Treasurer to keep in a book provided for that purpose, a correct record of the meetings of the Committee, to attend to all correspondence, keep a correct account of all moneys received and paid out, and report the same to the Committee at its quarterly meetings, and shall perform such other duties as usually devolve upon such officers. He shall pay out money only by order of the Committee.

4. The Committee shall have regular quarterly meetings at Mount Morris, Ogle County, Ill., beginning at 8 A. M., on the first Tuesday of January, April, July and October of each year.

5. Other meetings may be called by the Foreman and Secretary whenever it is deemed necessary.

6. A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

7. A majority of the members present shall decide any question before the Committee.

At the first meeting of the Committee a number of calls for help were received, but as there was no money in the Treasurer's



hands, the calls were deferred. It was decided to have the missionary plan as adopted by Annual Meeting, with an appeal to the churches for money, printed and a copy mailed to each elder in the Brotherhood. This was done by the Secretary.

The work for the year is reported up to the third quarterly meeting of the Committee held in April. Owing to the fact that at the first meeting the Committee had no money to begin work with; the time covered by this part of the report extends over a period of only six months, i. e., from October, 1884, to April, 1885. Under the blessings of God some work was done, a brief account of which is herewith submitted.

#### **The Foreign Missions.**

From Denmark and Sweden the report covers a period of not quite eight months. Bro. Hope has spent much of his time in the field, and has been assisted in the work by Bro. Johansen. Eighteen have been baptized, one minister and three deacons elected, and one minister advanced to the second degree. Money has been appropriated for building a meeting-house in Thyland, and work on the house has commenced. A suitable place for baptism has been secured at Copenhagen. Three have been baptized in Sweden, where Bro. Hope now has his home. He reports that the people hear him gladly, and he is much encouraged in the work. He, however, expresses a strong desire to be relieved, so that he may return to America at the close of the next year, 1886. The amount necessary to carry on the work in Denmark and Sweden successfully, will be about \$1,200 annually.

#### **The Work in Germany.**

The only work attempted in Germany by the Committee has been that recommended by the last Annual Meeting, that is, the distribution of our German paper, the *Bruederbote*. For this purpose \$80.30 was appropriated, and the paper was sent to a number of different places in Germany, and also to Switzerland. The only result so far from this effort has been the receipt of several letters by the Secretary, expressing thanks for the paper.

### **THE HOME MISSIONS.**

#### **The Texas and Arkansas Mission Field.**

The work in this field has been in the hands of brethren Vani-man, Mohler and Eby. About eighty days were spent in the field, and nearly the same number of sermons preached, with the following results: Seven baptized, one reclaimed, one church organized,



and three church meetings held. Expenses, \$163.05. The Committee propose to locate a missionary in this field for one or two years.

#### **Mission Work in Missouri.**

In this field Bro. W. B. Sell had charge of some work under the direction of the Committee. Thirty-one days were spent in the field, twenty-nine sermons preached, two baptized, and five applicants to be baptized in the future. The outlook in this field appears to be favorable. Expenses, \$30.

#### **Mission Work in Illinois.**

Bro. Daniel Vaniman visited Jefferson Co., Ill., under direction of the Committee. Eleven days spent in the field, twelve sermons preached. Expenses, \$15.42.

#### **Mission Work in Pennsylvania.**

Bro. J. W. Wilt was directed to use thirty dollars in his work at Glen Hope, Pa.

#### **Minnesota Mission.**

The work in this field is in charge of Bro. D. M. Miller. He has given the work some attention lately, but up to this date no report has been received from him.

#### **Summary.**

Total number of days spent in the field, .....	122
Total number of sermons preached, .....	121
Total number received by baptism, .....	27
Total number to be baptized, .....	5
Total number reclaimed, .....	1
Total number churches organized, .....	1
Total number church buildings provided for, .....	1
Total number church meetings held, .....	3

### **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT MISSION BOARDS.**

#### **Northern Indiana.**

Total receipts for missionary work, .....	\$153 35
Total expenditures for missionary work, .....	104 35
Sermons preached, 74. Additions by baptism, 12. Report closes April 2, 1885.	

#### **Northern Illinois.**

Total receipts for mission work, .....	\$425 67
Total expenditures for mission work, .....	248 81
Total amount appropriated for current year, .....	300 00
Total accessions by baptism, 21.	



It is to be regretted that up to date reports have been received but from the two State Districts above given. It is to be hoped that in the future the districts will send in their reports in accordance with the plan adopted by Annual Meeting.

#### Tracts and Circulars.

The Committee have published and sent out about five thousand tracts and circulars descriptive of its work and explaining the plan adopted by Annual Meeting. Tracts have been sent to Arkansas, and Texas, and to Chicago, and St. Louis, and a number have been given out for general distribution, so that in all not far from 6,000 tracts and circulars have been sent out.

#### Letters and Postal Cards.

The Secretary has received over 600 communications by mail, during the last nine months, all of which required some attention, entailing a considerable amount of labor.

#### Calls for Help.

A number of calls for assistance to build plain meeting-houses, and to send out missionaries, have been deferred by the Committee for a want of funds to meet them.

#### Report of Money Received and Expended.

The following sums of money have been received by the Treasurer, and paid out by the order of the Committee. The report closes April 29, 1885.

April 28, 1885, Total amount received for foreign missions, including the Danish building fund of \$400, rec'd from James Quinter, Treasurer of the former Missionary Board,	\$1550 39
April 28, 1885, Total amount received for the General Mission Fund, .....	2256 98
Total, .....	3807 37

#### Contra.

Amount paid out for home and foreign missions, .....	\$1685 77
Amount appropriated for building meeting-house in Denmark, .....	1200 00
Amount set apart to pay Bro. Hope money used by him in mission work that had been willed to his wife, .....	500 00
Amount paid Committee for work on missionary plan, .....	33 08
Amount paid railroad fare for General Committee attending quarterly meetings, .....	49 14
Amount paid for securing place for baptism in Copenhagen, .....	61 55
Amount refunded Pleasant Valley church, Ind., having been sent to the Treasurer by mistake, .....	9 00
Amount for postage, paper, exchange and record and account	



books, .....	\$ 13 55
Total, .....	3552 09
Balance on hand, April 29, '85, .....	255 28

The money received was donated: for the Foreign Mission, by 166 individual donors, and 148 churches; for general missionary fund 110 churches sent in contributions, and 80 individual members made donations.

The following list shows the amount contributed by each State and Territory, approximately:

Illinois, \$857.19; Ohio, \$506.25; Indiana, \$453.85; Pennsylvania, \$425.24; Iowa, \$142.09; Virginia, \$119.50; Texas, \$71.15; Maryland, \$54.77; Kansas, \$53.30; Missouri, \$51.05; Nebraska, \$30.17; Colorado, \$19.60; Minnesota, \$10.00; West Virginia, \$9.00; Tennessee, \$7.50; Michigan, \$7.28; Canada, \$7.00; Washington Territory, \$3.25; Oregon, \$3.25; Dakota, \$1.40; California, \$1.30; Wisconsin, \$1.00.

It will be seen by examining the foregoing report, that, of the whole number of church organizations in the Brotherhood (something over 500), only one out of five has responded to the call of Annual Meeting, to appoint solicitors for the missionary work of the church.

Illinois, with a membership of about 5,000, donates \$857.19, or one-fourth of the whole amount paid in, and of this sum two churches in the State paid \$520.97. The work done in these two churches shows what might be done in our whole Brotherhood, if all were willing to do their part.

Instead of one cent a week being paid by each of our members, as was suggested by our Annual Meeting last year, we have received less than one-tenth of a cent per week.

In regard to the appropriation for the meeting-house in Denmark, the following explanation is made: About \$800 was donated for the meeting-house, and could be used for no other purpose, and the Committee have added enough to complete the house, hence the appropriation for that purpose is larger than it otherwise would have been.

Enoch Eby, Foreman; D. L. Miller, Secretary and Treasurer.

#### Resolutions.

Whereas, the Annual Meeting has appointed a committee to aid the editors in keeping the Gospel Messenger free of the hitherto objectionable features, and

Whereas, the editors have agreed to accept the aid of this committee,

Be it resolved: That this meeting urge the members generally



to patronize the paper and aid its circulation in whatever way prudence may dictate.

Resolved: That the thanks of this meeting be tendered,

1st. To the brethren, sisters, and citizens of this community, who have kindly received and entertained those attending the meeting.

2nd. To the various Railroad Companies for their favors.

3rd. To Bro. Bashore for the use of his farm.

4th. To the managers of the meeting, and to all who have assisted in the labors of the meeting.

A request for next Annual Meeting from the Southern District of Ohio. This request was granted, and, consequently, the next Annual Meeting will be held with the brethren of the above named District at whatever place shall be decided upon by the District, and information will be given through the Gospel Messenger in due time.

The meeting closed with devotional exercises.

#### Standing Committee.

Samuel Molsby,	J. S. Holsinger,	M. S. McClure,
Jesse Crosswhite,	Samuel Garver,	P. E. Whitmore,
John Eller,	J. C. McMullen,	Isaac Barto,
Daniel Hays,	J. N. Kauffman,	Robert Badger,
Jacob Thomas,	J. W. Metzger,	H. P. Strickler,
D. B. Arnold,	R. Fisher,	J. S. Snowberger,
Sol. Stoner,	W. R. Deeter,	J. D. Trostle,
John Brindle,	E. Bosserman,	M. M. Eshelman,
Wm. Hertzler,	G. D. Zollars,	J. S. Mohler,
J. F. Oller,	Daniel Dierdorf,	John Wise.
J. Wise, Moderator.	J. Quinter, Writing Clerk,	
	W. R. Deeter, Reading Clerk.	

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF 1886.

Pittsburg, Darke Co., Ohio.

On Friday, June 11th, the Standing Committee met and organized by electing D. E. Price, Moderator; Dan'l. Hays, Writing Clerk; and D. Vaniman, Reading Clerk.

On Tuesday morning the General Council was opened as usual by devotional exercises. The committees and delegates then presented for the consideration of the Meeting, the following



subjects, which were prayerfully considered in the fear of the Lord, and decided upon as herein stated:

I. The first matter before the Meeting was the reading of the Report of the General Church Election and Missionary Committee, by D. L. Miller.

The report was accepted, and will be inserted at the close.

II. Whereas members are moving into our districts with letters of membership who conform to the world in shaving the beard all off except the mustache, and in the wearing of gold; also, the sisters wearing gold, hats and other fashionable apparel, and neglect wearing the covering. Therefore, we, the brethren of the Morrill church, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to grant local churches the privilege of rejecting letters of membership presented by members out of order as above stated, and referring the case back to the church that granted the letter.

Answer: This Annual Meeting grants the request provided the church cannot succeed in getting them to agree to come under the rules of our general church government, and shall also report the church giving letters as above, to the District Meeting of which it is a part.

III. Will District Meeting petition Annual Meeting to guard with care the Mission cause against the dangerous influences of insubordination to the self-denying principles of the Gospel, and so order that brethren and sisters who are not patterns of humility—that do not submit to and carry out fully our order on dress, and the recognized head wearing by the sisters; do not publicly take any part toward forwarding the mission cause, either by going on the platform at the Annual Meeting or publicly advocating the cause at Mission meetings, but that our faithful brethren and sisters be encouraged to promote the work in every Gospel way; and that the committee of arrangements be empowered by the adoption of this petition to so direct Mission meetings held during the Annual Meeting that the provision of this petition will be respected? Passed by Annual Meeting.

IV. Inasmuch as the missionary cause is a great and noble one, and given unto the church by Christ, its Author, would it not be best for the church to labor as a united body to carry said cause into effect, and not have separate organizations, such as Sisters' Missionary Bands?

Answer: Yes.

V. We, the Grundy Co. Church, Iowa, ask the District Meeting



of Northern Iowa and Minnesota to petition Annual Meeting of 1886 to adopt a plan by which the German paper, *Der Bruderbote*, may be more extensively circulated among our poor German members, and also among the Germans living in each organized church of the Brethren, and in the towns and cities in America, as well as in foreign lands, asking each Elder with his co-laborers to take active part in looking after the interests of the Germans, placing into their hands said paper. And also ask that tracts be published in the German language, for distribution among the Germans of America and foreign lands.

Answer: Referred to the Book and Tract Committee.

VI. As there is an active tendency on the part of some elders, ministers, deacons, and churches toward discarding our order on plainness of dressing, as also the appropriate head covering worn by our devoted sisters; also consenting that sisters may wear hats in disregard to Art. 16, 1877, and thus rapid strides are made towards the ever-changing, and sinful fashions of the world, and the teaching of the Gospel of plainness of wearing apparel is disregarded; will District Meeting therefore petition Annual Meeting to authorize that the Standing Committee if ascertained by it through any reliable source, that adjoining elders to churches which tolerate departures from our general order on any subject have failed to undertake, or to set in order such officers or churches, as above named. It shall appoint with consent of the Annual Meeting faithful brethren to visit such church or churches, to set them in order, but if a majority of a church will hinder the work, said elders shall proceed with the minority as directed by the second paragraph of Art. 4, 1882. And further, said elders shall have authority to call before them those adjoining elders to interrogate them, and if need be, go into their respective churches to complete their work as it may affect those adjoining elders, and the expense attending such services shall be met by the district in which the churches visited are located, for all which see Art. 47, 1866 and Art. 13, 1877, closing paragraph of plan for holding Annual Meeting adopted in 1866, Art. 4, 1882, and Art. 15, 1874.

Answer: This Annual Meeting grants this petition.

VII. We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to more particularly define the language used in Art. 3, 1848, as there are elders and ministers who refuse to comply with the general order of the church in this matter, claiming the above named Article as authority, and by so doing have disturbed the



peace of churches. They claim that in examining applicants for baptism they are simply required to promise to conform to gospel plainness in the matter of dress, after which to read Matt. 18: 10-22, and then ask if they are willing to conform with these Gospel rules, without any comment or even reversing the case by asking them if they would be willing also to hear their brother or sister when coming to them in a case of trespass, as recorded in the above scriptures.

Answer: A sub-committee, consisting of Enoch Eby, J. D. Trostle, Edward Forney, David Long, and I. D. Kauffman was appointed to prepare an answer to the above petition. Said committee presented the following answer: 1. Not to take up arms in defense of our country. Not to resist evil, but to love our enemies. 2. Non-swearing according to Matt. 5: 34; James 5: 12. 3. Going to law, Matt. 5: 40; 1 Cor. 6: 1. 4. Non-conformity, Rom. 12: 1; James 1: 21; 1 Peter 1: 14; 3: 4, 5. 5. Secret societies, Matt. 10: 26, 27; Luke 8: 17; 2 Cor. 6: 14. Sisters wearing covering, 1 Cor. 11: 5. 7. For reversing the questions, see Luke 6: 31. The answer of the committee was passed.

VIII. Where there is a two-thirds vote in favor of a Sabbath-school, will not Annual Meeting authorize that the minority shall not hinder the school?

Answer: We decide that the minority of a church should not hinder the majority from organizing and conducting Sunday-schools in harmony with the principles of the Brotherhood.

IX. We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to grant the churches the privilege of electing church officers by the majority vote, instead of the plurality. As a plan for electing by the majority rule, we suggest that the members be called before the committee of elders holding the election, the second time or oftener, and an opportunity be given to make a choice from those having the highest number of votes. This petition passed District Meeting, and is sent to Annual Meeting with the request that it be granted.

Answer: Annual Meeting decides that this query be deferred till next year.

X. Will District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to re-consider that part of the general missionary plan which relates to raising money? Past experience shows that the present plan does not reach all alike, only one-fifth of the churches having responded to the recommendations of Annual Meeting of 1884. This discourages the churches that have done well, and some have been eased



and others burdened. The failure of the churches to respond has not been from a lack of interest in the work, we trust, but for want of a proper presentation of the matter to them. In view of these facts and to help to extend the work of the Missionary Committee, we offer the following to take the place of the last clause of the missionary plan adopted in 1884, so far as it relates to raising money:

Let each State District appoint a brother who is known to be favorable to missionary work, to act as treasurer of the General Missionary Fund, whose duty it shall be to consult with the elder of each local church and see that a solicitor, either a brother or a sister, is appointed to solicit every individual brother or sister, according to the plan of 1884. All money raised by solicitors shall be paid to the District Treasurer, who shall forward the money at the end of each quarter to the treasurer of the General Missionary Committee. The District Treasurer shall also make a report to District Meeting once a year, of his work. These District Treasurers shall hold their office one year, or until their successors are appointed.

The District Meeting asks Annual Meeting to so amend the missionary plan.

Answer: Annual Meeting makes the amendment asked for.

XI. Since the use of tobacco is acknowledged to be a waste of the Lord's money, productive of disease, and degrading the functions of the body so as to shorten life, would it not be in conformity with the spirit of the Gospel lovingly to admonish and advise all our brethren to abstain from the sale of that which is decidedly injurious, thus showing a proper light to the world, and throwing their influence on the side of right and of God? District Meeting asks Annual Meeting to so advise.

Answer: Annual Meeting grants the request.

XII. Inasmuch as necessity required a specification in the order of dress to be worn by the brethren, we therefore petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to make the time honored custom of wearing the plain cap or kerchief in connection with a plain skirt dress a specification for the order or uniform to be worn by the sisters, as many of them are departing from gospel plainness as interpreted by our fathers and the church, thus destroying that oneness and admitting in its stead the popular fashions of a proud world.



Answer: We decide that gospel plainness requires our sisters to attire themselves in plainly made garments, free from ornaments, ruffles, and all unnecessary appendages, and that it is the duty of all housekeepers to see that our sisters are properly instructed concerning the necessity of this gospel plainness, and it is also their duty to see that the order of the church, respecting plainness, is properly carried out in their respective congregations, both upon the part of the brethren as well as the sisters.

XIII. Will the District Meeting of the Southern District of Indiana ask Annual Meeting to authorize the Standing Committee to reject all queries having no answer, repealing any and all decisions conflicting with the above?

Answer: This Annual Meeting decides to make no change, but advise District Meeting to answer all queries when at all possible.

XIV. Inasmuch as the Report of Annual Meeting gives many of the speeches so imperfectly that the readers cannot get the ideas of the speakers clearly, will not this Annual Meeting adopt some means of having the work more properly done?

Answer: Inasmuch as the Report of Annual Meeting is an individual enterprise, this meeting assumes no responsibility in the matter. See Minutes of 1876, Art. 2.

XV. Inasmuch as there have been some things in the missionary cause brought up at Annual Meeting by the Committee of Arrangements or others, which many brethren feel have been an injury to the cause in some localities, will this Annual Meeting decide that all business or work on that subject must first pass the Annual Meeting in the regular order, before it can be introduced in any form at the meeting?

Answer: This Annual Meeting so decides.

XVI. Whereas, the work developing in some of our cities is proving too burdensome to the Districts in whose care they fall, will not Annual Meeting relieve those Districts, by placing all work in cities under the care of the General Mission Board, except those cities that fall properly in the limits of a congregation?

Answer: Inasmuch as our city missions are being cared for by the Districts in which they fall, we see no cause for action in the matter at present.

XVII. In order that there may be a harmony of action among the churches in dealing with members guilty of the sin of fornication or adultery, we, therefore, ask Annual Meeting through



District Meeting to say whether all members guilty of said sins must be disowned, or whether upon a good confession and manifesting sorrow and repentance, they may be retained?

Answer: We consider this query sufficiently answered in former Minutes. See Art. 2, 1885, Art. 18, 1855, Art. 12, 1863, Art. 18, 1879.

XVIII. Inasmuch as Annual Meeting of 1873, Art. 1st, and 1882, Art. 28th and 29th did admonish and advise members not to have their lives insured, and if they did so, would require them to abandon them, or be dealt with as transgressors; and whereas, of late years life insurance companies have become more numerous, and many persons have had their lives insured; and, whereas, there is a probability that some of those persons will make application to come into the church by baptism, will this District Meeting give us instruction how to proceed? If members are required to withdraw their life insurance policy, surely we can not take in applicants without withdrawing their policy. Therefore, when visiting applicants for membership, when we ask them if they are members of any secret order, and if so, they must withdraw, ought we not also to ask them if they have their lives insured, and if so, ask them to withdraw their policy?

Answer: Annual Meeting decides as requested.

XIX. We prayerfully petition the Annual Meeting of 1885 through the church at Pleasant Hill and the Tenn. District Meeting to receive the remaining portion of the J. A. Bowman members, without re-baptizing them, as they have been baptized upon a confession of faith for the remission of sin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Therefore we claim they have as good a right as the first part of said members, who were received into the fellowship of the church by the Annual Meeting, through a committee appointed by said Annual Meeting to investigate their case in 1866. As these last have been baptized under the same church government.

Answer: Since it is difficult at this late time to know all the particulars connected with the John A. Bowman matter of Tennessee, and therefore equally difficult (if not impossible) to decide on the merits of the decision of the committee of 1866 in the case, Annual Meeting therefore decides that it cannot authorize a change in the relation of the petitioners to the brotherhood.

XX. Inasmuch as some congregations in our Fraternity are issuing certificates of membership in the name of the "Brethren," contrary to the advice of Annual Meeting of 1836, Art. 6, 1871,



Art. 36, and 1883, Art. 7, and inasmuch as the above name is misleading since another body has assumed it, we therefore ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to advise all the churches to use uniformity in the matter of issuing church letters.

Answer: This Annual Meeting does so advise. See Art. 36, 1871.

XXI. In order to assist the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee to secure suitable brethren to send as missionaries, and secure the co-operation of all the churches in the missionary work the following is submitted: Let the missionary committee of each State District nominate two or more ministers, whose consent has been obtained to serve as missionaries if called upon, inside of one year, one of whom shall be elected by the vote of the delegates present at District Meeting, and reported to the General Committee, with a statement of his age, degree of office, occupation, and the number, age and sex of his family.

Answer: Approved by Annual Meeting.

**Report of the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee to Annual Meeting, held at Pittsburgh, Darke Co., O., June 15, 1886.**

To the General Conference of the Brethren's Church, assembled at Pittsburgh, Ohio, Greeting:—

To the General Conference of the Brethren's Church, assembled at Pittsburgh, Ohio, Greetings:—

The General Church Erection and Missionary Committee respectfully submit the following report of its work for the current year.

The report closes with the quarterly meeting of the committee held April 7, 1886, and embraces the work of a little over eleven months. During this time the members of the committee labored to the best of their ability with the means at hand to forward the work intrusted to them. Under God's blessing and direction, we trust, some progress has been made a brief report of which is herewith submitted.

### THE FOREIGN MISSION.

The mission work in Sweden and Denmark has been measurably successful. Although the missions are separate and distinct, yet from the fact that Bro. Hope has labored in both fields, they are placed together in the matter of expense. A church has been organized in Sweden during the year to which 20 were added by baptism. This church embraces the districts or villages of Malms,



Ystad and Lindhavn. They have one minister in the first degree, two deacons, and at the present time a membership of 30. They have a successful Sunday school with an attendance of about 100.

In Denmark there are four organized churches as follows:

Frederickshavn.—Elder, S. C. Neilsen; Minister, second degree, P. C. Poulsen. Two deacons and 29 members. Three were baptized during the year.

Hjorring Church.—Elder, C. Eskildsen. Minister, first degree, Chr. Hausen. Two deacons and 24 members. Two added by baptism.

Thyland.—The new meeting house has been completed. In this congregation they have no settled minister at present. A number of their ministers have emigrated to America during the year. They have now two deacons and a membership of 17. Two added by baptism.

Copenhagen.—One minister in the second degree, F. Johansen, two deacons and 13 members. Three were baptized during the year. They have also lost some by emigration. From this it appears that notwithstanding the loss to the church by emigration, there are yet 125 members in Denmark and Sweden. During the year Bro. Hope held over 300 meetings, and 28 were baptized. The total expenses of the mission, including hall rent at four places, traveling expenses, and incidentals, has been \$1673.

In addition to Bro. Hope's work, Bro. Johansen held 200 meetings, Bro. Olssen 75, Bro. Poulsen 90, and Bro. Hensen 72 meetings. The expenses have been somewhat increased, owing to the fact that sister Hope has been sick the entire year. At Bro. Hope's urgent request the committee have relieved him from the work, and he will sail for America on the 24th of next month. The work will in the meantime be given into the hands of the home ministry.

#### Germany.

The committee have no further information than that given in last year's report to present in regard to work in Germany. The expense of locating a brother in that country, and the lack of means has kept them from making an effort in this direction

#### HOME MISSIONS.

##### The Texas Mission.

The committee, after much labor, finally secured Bro. A. W. Vaniman to locate in Texas. He moved there in March last. Since then he has preached 27 sermons, distributed 1,500 pages of tracts, baptized eight, and reports excellent prospects for future work.



The expense attending this work has been \$68.06. The committee have some hopes that brother Henry Brubaker, of Nebraska, will locate in Texas. He visited the church there during the year, preached a short time for them, and baptized one. This field is large and promising, and only needs cultivation to produce a plentiful harvest of souls for the Lord.

Tennessee.

In connection with the district of Tennessee the committee assisted in some work there. Brethren Geo. C. and Jos. B. Bowman performed the labor. They traveled 724 miles, preached 17 sermons, and baptized four.

Assistance to State Districts.—According to the plan under which the committee acts, help was given during the year for missionary work to the following State Districts:

The District of Oregon, .....	\$100 00
Southern District of Missouri for work in Arkansas, .....	50 00
Northwest Kansas and Colorado, .....	25 00

Church Erection.

The committee have assisted during the year in building three churches as follows:

Moscow, Idaho Territory, .....	\$200 00
Belleville, Kansas, .....	100 00
Keuka, Florida, .....	63 00

Numerous calls have been made upon the committee for help in building meeting houses, and in paying church indebtedness. The former have been referred to the State District Committees, and the latter the committee feel they have no authority to do under the missionary plan. A number of calls for assistance are now pending the action of State Districts.

Summary.

Received by baptism, .....	36
Churches Organized, .....	1
Meeting Houses provided for, .....	3

REPORTS FROM DISTRICT MISSION BOARDS.

Northern Indiana.

Total receipts for Missionary Work, .....	\$145 89
Expenditures, .....	89 75

The report says, "The work is in a good condition, and from past successes we should be inspired to greater efforts in the fu-



ture. The members of the Board have been unceasing in their efforts to make the trust a success. Eternity alone will reveal the length and breadth of this work."

#### Nebraska.

In this District a Church Erection and Missionary Committee has been appointed to coöperate with the General Committee, and are now fully prepared for work.

Received during the year, .....	\$ 52 65
Expended for Mission Work, .....	43 17

#### First District of Virginia.

This District shows considerable work done in the mission field. In addition to the amount collected and sent to the general mission fund, they collected and expended \$96.25. A number of sermons were preached, and 13 were received by baptism. Much of this work was done by the ministers of the Botetourt congregation.

#### Northeastern Ohio.

The report of this District is limited to the receipts and expenditures, which were as follows:

Received, .....	\$ 77 13
Expended, .....	44 57

#### Northwestern Kansas and Colorado.

The storms during the winter interfered with the work. However, some work was done, and a number added to the church.

Amount collected in District, .....	\$30 00	
Donated by General Committee, .....	25 00	\$55 00
Expended, .....	—	39 60

#### Northern Illinois.

The work in Northern Illinois has been carried forward vigorously.

Amount received for Mission Work, .....	\$458 86
Amount expended for Mission Work, .....	438 74
Amount appropriated for the coming year, .....	500 00

#### The District of Tennessee.

Amount collected in this District for Missionary work, ...	\$31 00
Donated by the General Committee, .....	10 00 41 00



This sum was expended in the Mission work, and as a result four were added to the church by baptism.

### Southern District of Ohio.

Amount collected in District for Mission work, .....	\$185 61
Expended, .....	100 15

Number baptized in the Missions during the year, six.

### Southern District of Missouri.

This District received and expended in Missions, \$100. The General Committee also assisted them by a donation of \$50 to carry forward the work in Arkansas. This labor was performed by brethren C. Haldeman and George Barnhart, who spent some time there in the winter, preaching the Word, and setting things in order.

### FINANCIAL REPORT, APRIL 7, 1886.

Balance on hand, April 29, 1885, .....	\$ 255 28	
Received for Foreign Missions, .....	329 41	
Received for General Missions, .....	2745 43	
	<hr/>	\$3330 12

### Contra.

Hall rent, traveling expenses, and support of Bro.

Hope and family in Denmark and Sweden, ....	\$1200 00	
Building Meeting-houses, .....	363 00	
Home Mission Work, .....	273 00	
Mission Work in North Denmark, .....	200 00	
Mission Work in Sweden, .....	350 00	
Tracts, .....	67 53	
Traveling expenses of Committee to attend meetings, .....	59 62	
Postage and Stationery, .....	4 25	
Amount to balance, .....	812 72	
	<hr/>	\$3330 12

### The Hope Home Fund.

Total amount received to June 2, 1886, .....	\$1172 16	
Foreign and General Missions, .....	3074 84	
Received by State Districts, .....	985 78	
	<hr/>	\$5232 78

Included in the above total amount is the money raised by the Sisters' Missionary Workers. This sum amounts to \$432.24. The sisters are to be commended for their zeal in this work, and should be encouraged to go on in their efforts to assist in spreading the Gospel of our Blessed Master. The amount raised by the sisters is about one-eighth of the total sum received for Mission work.



The following list shows the amount contributed by each State and Territory.

Illinois, .....	\$1049 58	Minnesota, .....	\$34 50
Pennsylvania, .....	604 17	California, .....	28 75
Indiana, .....	453 67	Michigan, .....	21 25
Ohio, .....	421 05	Washington Ty., .....	15 50
Iowa, .....	396 00	Wisconsin, .....	\$12 00
Kansas, .....	181 90	Florida, .....	10 80
Virginia, .....	116 95	Tennessee, .....	6 25
West Virginia, .....	67 20	Oregon, .....	4 85
Nebraska, .....	\$66 72	Canada, .....	4 00
Maryland, .....	58 70	Montana, .....	2 00
Texas, .....	49 15	Dakota, .....	1 00
Missouri, .....	41 75	Idaho, .....	50

By an analysis of the foregoing report, and by comparison with the report of last year it will be seen that some of the States have increased in giving, while others have fallen off. Illinois stands first with over \$1,000, an increase of nearly \$200 over last year. Pennsylvania is second on the list, having increased a little more than \$200 over last year. Indiana gives within a few cents of the amount paid last year, whilst Ohio falls off nearly \$100. Kansas gives three times as much this year as last, and Nebraska more than doubles her liberality. West Virginia gave \$9 last year, while this year \$67.20 is placed to her credit. Virginia shows a very slight falling off, whilst Maryland gains a few dollars.

The result shows on the whole a satisfactory increase over last year, and it is to be hoped that the increase will go on until the sum raised for Missionary work in the church shall amount to at least one cent a week for each member in the brotherhood.

The amount received this year, including the Hope Home Fund amounts to \$4,257.00. Amount received last year, \$3,407.37. Increase \$849.63, or a little over 27 per cent.

It will be noticed the only expense connected with receiving, paying out and accounting for the Mission fund outside of the traveling expenses of the Committee to attend the meetings, has been \$4.25 for postage and stationery. This result is due to the fact that all the work of the Committee has been done without pay for time and labor.

We, your committee by appointment, having carefully examined the treasurer's report of the General Church Election and Missionary Committee, find its receipts and expenditures carefully



and clearly recorded. We therefore submit it to you as a correct report.

Signed,

J. G. Royer.

I. J. Rosenberger.

XXIII. We, the Executive Committee on publishing Books and Tracts, as ordered by Art. 7, 1885, suggest to the Standing Committee that Annual Meeting re-consider said Article, and adopt the following change of name,—“The Brethren’s Book and Tract Work,” instead of “The Brethren’s Book and Tract Committee,” making it read as follows:

1st. The Standing Committee of Annual Meeting shall nominate, and Annual Meeting approve and perpetuate, an Executive Committee of six members living sufficiently near each other, for frequent consultation, to serve for a term of three years, except the members first appointed, two of whom shall serve one year, two, two years, and two, three years. Said Committee shall select its own officers, make its own by-laws, procure and distribute tracts and other publications upon best available methods, both in this and foreign lands, in families, in cities, towns and country, in cars, depots, and reading rooms, on board of outgoing and ports of incoming steamers; in short, everywhere as means for publication, and facilities for judicious dissemination can be secured; fill all incidental vacancies occurring in the Committee. Inform Standing Committee each year whose term has expired, and make an annual report of its work, including receipts and expenditures, with all necessary suggestions to Annual Meeting through Standing Committee, which shall inspect, or cause said report to be carefully inspected.

2d. The funds for this work shall consist of bequests, free-will offerings, money received on life interests, and from sale of publications.

3d. In order to promote the object of this work, each church in the brotherhood is hereby requested to appoint one or more home agents, to solicit aid, and assist in distributing publications. The home agents shall forward the means to the treasurer as collected, fill out blank furnished, and present them quarterly to the church for approval, and then to the Corresponding Secretary of the Committee.

4th. Each church shall be allowed to draw any of the publications through her home agents, equal in value to half the sum paid in during the year. All claims for publications not presented during the year, shall expire May 1st for each year.

5th. Any person paying at one time twenty or more dollars,



to promote the "Work," shall be entitled to draw publications annually to the value of one dollar for each twenty dollars paid.

6th. The Standing Committee shall nominate, and the Annual Meeting confirm, a committee of five faithful and well-informed brethren whose duty it will be to examine and approve all matter to be published and distributed.

Organization of Committee.—The Executive Committee for the Book and Tract Committee: S. W. Hoover, S. D. Royer, Adam Minnick, B. F. Miller, Jacob Hepner, and Samuel Bock.

S. D. Royer, for three years; S. W. Hoover, for three years; Adam Minnick, for two years; B. F. Miller, for two years; Jacob Hepner, for one year; Samuel Bock, for one year.

The Examining Committee for the Book and Tract Committee: Enoch Eby, R. H. Miller, Landon West, B. F. Moomaw, and S. S. Mohler.

All expenses incident to the proper prosecution of the work shall be paid out of the funds collected.

June 14, 1886.

We, the undersigned committee appointed to examine the financial report of the Brethren's Book and Tract Committee, hereby certify that we have found it correct.

Samuel H. Myers.

Jessie Kinsey,

J. D. Trostle.

XXIV. Report to Annual Meeting of 1886, of the Executive Committee of the Brethren's Book and Tract Committee:

1st. The members of the Executive Committee appointed by the Annual Meeting of 1885, met in Salem church, Montgomery Co., O., August 4, 1885, at 2 o'clock, p. m., for organization. Officers chosen for the year as follows: S. W. Hoover, Foreman; J. A. Hepner, Treasurer; and Samuel Bock, Secretary. By-laws and rules of business, as appear in our advance circular, were also adopted.

2. August 13th the Committee met at Bro. Hoover's. The circular or pamphlet above referred to containing Constitution and By-Laws, was agreed upon as the best method of introducing the work to the brotherhood. Three thousand copies were ordered to be printed; the greater number of which have been distributed.

3d. Meetings of the Committee were held regularly as set forth in the By-Laws.

4th. Funds raised during the year:



From Churches, .....	\$176 18	
From Individual Members, .....	23 40	
From Individuals, not Members, .....	165 50	
Total, .....	—————	\$365 08

5th. Expenditures:

Publication of Pamphlets, Stationery, Postage, etc., \$	75 58	
Balance on hand, .....		\$289 50

6th. On account of the Examining Committee not having had a meeting for the examination of work and publications to be put out, we could not offer printed matter the past year.

7th. Credits.—Churches having contributed to the funds of the Committee during the past year, (see Art. 5th of the Constitution), can draw publications for their portion during the coming year. When ready, notice will be given in the Gospel Messenger.

Expirations: J. A. Hepner, S. Bock.

Samuel Bock,  
Secretary.

### Report of Committee Appointed to Visit the Brethren in California.

XXV. We, the undersigned brethren appointed by A. M. of 1884 to visit the brethren in California, to set in order things that are wanting, met pursuant to appointment with the church in Calaveras Co., Cal., on Monday, Nov. 3, 1884, and with the church in San Joaquin Co., Cal., on Wednesday, Nov. 5th, where after devotional exercises at each place, the following business was transacted with a Christian spirit:—

1. It was ascertained that the Stanislaus church as organized by B. F. Moomaw and H. D. Davy, (see Min. of 1875, Art. 34, Reason 4) was disorganized, only a few of those members remaining, all of which that were present, accepted the committee, while all the members of California church present, rejected the committee.

2. It was also ascertained that the charge of the California church having H. R. Holsinger there to preach, was correct, and at the time of this council they had Joseph Beer preaching for them, as evidence of their disregard for the counsels of the Brotherhood; and whereas the church in California is governed by a local or congregational form of church government, thereby ignoring the counsels and advice of our General Conference (only when in harmony with their views), such as fellowshiping expelled members, &c.; and whereas several committees have been



sent by our General Conference, to try and effect a perfect reconciliation and union with the general Brotherhood, but all proved ineffectual to that end; and whereas, there are those among them who are loyal to the general brotherhood, but are powerless, and can not enjoy their rights and privileges; therefore in view of the above, we recommend that the Brotherhood withdraw fellowship from all those who will not respect nor hear the counsel of the church, or general Brotherhood.

Furthermore, we recommend that those among them who are loyal to the general Brotherhood, having been baptized prior to the General Conference of 1885, shall be recognized as members in full fellowship with the church of the Brethren, and shall be amenable to the church for their conduct.

David Barklow,  
Enoch Eby,  
Committee.

#### Letters of Greeting from Annual Meeting, 1886.

The Annual Meeting of 1886 sends greetings to the brethren and sisters in Europe. May the grace of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all those who are of "like precious faith" with us. Signed by order of the Annual Meeting.

D. E. Price, Moderator.

Danl. Vaniman,

Danl. Hays, Writing Clerk.

Reading Clerk.

#### Resolutions.

1. Resolved, that the thanks of this meeting are tendered to our brethren and friends who so kindly entertained us while attending our Annual Council.

2. To the various religious bodies giving us the use of their churches.

3. To the Railroad Companies which favored us in coming to this meeting.

4. Resolved, that the success of our missionary work has been such that we have reasons to be thankful to God for the same, and to labor with increased zeal and interest in the future.

5. Resolved, that delegates pass Messenger office on their way to supper, and leave their ballot for one member of Advisory Committee and one dollar each to meet indebtedness on St. Louis church property, and expenses of committee sent out last year by Annual Meeting.



### Committees to Visit Churches.

I. A request for a committee to visit the Eel River church, Ind. Request granted, and the following brethren were appointed: Hiel Hamilton, John W. Metzgar, and J. H. Miller.

II. A request for a committee to visit the Fairview church, Ind. Request granted, and the following brethren appointed: Jacob Reif, W. R. Deeter, and Isaac Fisher.

III. The following brethren were appointed to fill vacancies in the General Election and Missionary Committee for the term of three years: Daniel Vaniman and Samuel Riddlesbarger.

IV. Jacob Kepner and Samuel Bock were reappointed to fill vacancies in the Book and Tract Work.

V. Daniel Hays was appointed to fill the vacancy in the Advisory Committee.

Two requests for next Annual Meeting, one from Middle Fork, Ind., and one from Kansas. The one from Kansas was granted.

### Delegates on Standing Committee.

Henry Brubaker,	James R. Gish,	William Howe,
John Hollinger,	D. Vaniman,	Samuel Harley,
William Davis,	Isaac Billhimer,	Daniel R. Sayler,
William Wyland,	David Neff,	C. Cassel,
S. S. Mohler,	Jeremiah Gump,	Asa Harman,
C. C. Root,	Isaac Miller,	Daniel Hays,
John Thomas,	L. H. Dickey,	John B. Naff,
S. M. Goughenour,	David Young,	Daniel Peters,
S. H. Miller,	John Smith,	George C. Bowman.
D. E. Price,	C. G. Lint,	

D. E. Price, Moderator.

Daniel Vaniman, Reading Clerk,

D. Hays, Writing Clerk,

John Flory, Door Keeper.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF 1887.

Ottawa, Kansas.

On Friday, May 27, the Standing Committee met and organized, by electing Enoch Eby, Moderator; M. J. McClure, Writing Clerk; R. H. Miller, Reading Clerk; and Samuel Driver, Doorkeeper.

On Tuesday morning, May 31, the General Council met and



was opened with devotional exercises. The Meeting then proceeded to consider and decide, in the fear of the Lord, the following subjects:

1. The following rule was added to the former rules for the government of the Meeting: Motions or amendments to the answers in papers that are presented to Annual Meeting shall not be entertained by the Moderator until the one presenting the paper has opportunity to explain it, and its merits are discussed by the Meeting; then, if there is not a union of sentiment in the Meeting, the Moderator may entertain amendments to the answer.

2. Query deferred from 1886. We petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to grant the churches the privilege of electing church officers by the majority vote instead of the plurality.

Answer: Deferred indefinitely.

3. When a congregation is very largely in favor of the single mode of feet-washing, will the District Meeting advise to make the desired change from the double to the single mode? Decided to send this to Annual Meeting of 1887.

Answer: Referred to Art. 14 of Minutes of 1879.

4. Will this District Meeting request Annual Meeting to advise the elders of the churches to hold at least one series of meetings in their congregations each year? We do; and ask that this request be submitted to Annual Meeting by our delegate.

Answer: We do so advise.

5. As there has not been anything passed by Annual Meeting that delegates sent to that Meeting by the churches shall present certificates, and as some of the churches send delegates without certificates, will District Meeting No. 2 of Virginia ask Annual Meeting to instruct the Committee on Credentials not to receive any as delegates unless they present proper credentials from the church that sent them?

Answer: Annual Meeting so instructs.

6. Inasmuch as our Brethren have been under the necessity of going to the alms-house, will not this church petition District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting to appoint a committee to adopt some plan to organize an old folks' home until next Annual Meeting? Decided to send it to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Annual Meeting appointed E. W. Stoner, B. F.



Moomaw and David Long, with instructions to report to next Annual Meeting.

7. We, the Brethren assembled in regular council, ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting of Western Pennsylvania, the following question: Are excommunicated and unreconciled ministers of the Gospel, or those ordained by them, according to the Gospel and the order of the Brethren Church, to be considered proper administrators of Christian baptism? The German Baptist Brethren, or the Brethren Church, proper, has always held it a matter sacred, in the church, that any member, and especially the administrator, in the performance of any rite in the Church, should be in full faith, peace, union and fellowship with the Brotherhood, and especially with the body which granted him to administer in holy things.

Answer: Passed by Annual Meeting.

8. We petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to reconsider that part of Minutes of Annual Meeting of 1866 which grants the privilege to each State having ten elders to send three representatives on Standing Committee, and so amend as to regulate the number of representatives on Standing Committee from each State District according to the number of members, instead of the number of elders in a State. This District Meeting agrees to ask Annual Meeting to grant the request, and decide as follows: Each State District, having three thousand members or less, shall be entitled to one representative on the Standing Committee; Districts having over three thousand members may send two.

Answer: We decided to make no change.

9. We, the Brethren of Elkhart church, do hereby petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to reconsider Art. 3 of 1849, in regard to permitting brethren to wear caps in cases of necessity.

Answer: Annual Meeting grants the request.

10. Inasmuch as the Brethren aim to strictly obey the Word of God, would it not be more in accordance with the Word to break bread at the close of the Supper, while some are yet eating, Matt. 24: 26, than to close the Supper with singing and prayer, as it is done now, thus separating the Supper from the communion?

Answer: We make no change.

11. We ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to



reconsider Art. 7 of 1883 and Art. 6 of 1884, and make the General Church Election and Missionary Committee the legal representatives, or trustees, instead of the Moderator and Clerks of Annual Meeting, of all property belonging to the General Brotherhood of the German Baptist Brethren Church; to care for, control, sell and convey the same as in their judgment may seem best for the General Brotherhood.

Answer: Referred to a committee of three, instructed to report to Annual Meeting of 1888.

12. The District Meeting of Northern Illinois asks Annual Meeting of 1887 to change the manner of electing officers of Annual Meeting, by permitting the delegates to take part in said election.

Answer: Decided to make no change.

13. The District Meeting of Northern Illinois asks Annual Meeting to instruct the General Missionary Committee to send a missionary among the Mormons in Utah.

Answer: Referred to the General Church Election and Missionary Committee.

14. We, the Brethren of Roann church, Indiana, ask District Meeting to ask Annual Meeting to grant local churches the privilege of notifying expelled members of their expulsion, when not present, by letter, instead of by personal visit.

Answer: Decided to leave this to the wisdom of the church to decide when a written notice will answer instead of a personal visit, which is the general practice of the Church.

15. Inasmuch as the time has been that religious liberty did not exist in Germany, and our dear Brethren had to seek refuge in America, and the Brethren Church, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has prospered here, and as at this time religious liberty is granted in Germany, this District, by request of the Big Grove church, petitions Annual Meeting to look up brethren who are able to preach the Gospel as believed and practiced by the Brethren Church, and send them, as missionaries, to Germany.

Answer: Referred to the General Church Election and Missionary Committee.

16. Is Art. 45, 1862, to be understood to mean that churches shall, under all circumstances, grant expelled members a committee, or have they a right to act according to the nature of the case and the circumstances connected therewith?



Answer: We do not understand the Minutes to compel a church to grant a committee in all cases, but shall use its judgment, according to the nature of the case.

17. As the Gospel Messenger can be profitably used towards opening mission fields, will District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to authorize the General Missionary Committee to appropriate of the mission funds to send the Messenger into such new localities as may appear favorable to the work, and that District Mission Committees, and brethren engaged in mission work, may recommend persons and localities to which papers may be sent?

Answer: Yes.

18. Will District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to so direct that officers moving into a church shall, before being located in their official standing, promise, in the presence of the church and the elder in charge, to support and defend the principles of the Gospel on all points, as held and practiced by our Brotherhood, and then, by vote of the church, be accepted as represented by their letter?

Answer: Yes.

19. How is it considered in paying the annual or general visit to members before love-feast, is it right for the officers of the congregations to meet and visit each other before sending the visiting brethren, or deacons, on the visit? It is right, so that no one be sent on the visit who is not in peace and in the order of the General Brotherhood, and we ask that congregations be required to adopt this order of sending the general church visit.

Answer: Passed by Annual Meeting.

20. The North-Eastern District of Ohio petitions Annual Meeting of 1887 to set apart Whitsunday as a day of fasting for all who attend Annual Meeting on said day.

Answer: We heartily recommend the duty of fasting, but do not feel to set apart a special day.

21. A number of papers were presented in relation to the Hymn Book and Hymnal, which were referred to a committee who reported as follows:

"We recommend a revision of the Brethren's Hymn Book, the revised Book not to contain over five hundred hymns, and the price of the best binding not to exceed fifty cents. The hymns in the new Book to be regularly numbered, and those taken from the old Book to have the number of the same hymn in the old Book.



The classification of the new Book to be on the plan of the old one, with an additional class of hymns, suited to the wants of children. We also recommend the publishing of a missionary edition, containing about one hundred selections from the revised Hymn Book. We also recommend the revision of the Hymnal in character notes, conforming in numbering and classification to the new Hymn Book.

The report was deferred to next Annual Meeting permitting the General Missionary Committee to publish a small book for its use in mission work.

22. A number of papers were presented, asking for a change in the conducting and ownership of the Gospel Messenger, which were submitted to the following committee: S. S. Mohler, M. M. Eshelman, Daniel Vaniman, R. H. Miller, Enoch Eby.

23. The following was reported by the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee, and was accepted by Annual Meeting:

**Report of the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee  
to Annual Meeting, Held at Ottawa, Franklin Co., Kans.,**

**May 31 to June 2, 1887.**

To the General Conference of the German Baptist Brethren Church, assembled at Ottawa, Kansas, Greeting:—

The General Church Erection and Missionary Committee submit the following report of its work for the current year, ending April 5, 1887:

During the past year the Committee has been deprived, part of the time, of the counsel of Bro. James R. Gish, who, in his zeal for the Master's cause, spent a part of the year in Arkansas, laying the foundation for future work. Bro. Enoch Eby was also unable to meet with the Committee. Under these disadvantages, the Committee labored to carry forward the great missionary work of the church, and, under Divine blessing, some progress in the work has been made, a brief report of which is herewith submitted.

**FOREIGN MISSIONS.**

The work in Denmark and Sweden has been carried on with much zeal, and the results have been encouraging. The brethren there held, during the year, 589 meetings, and 39 were received into the church by baptism. The Committee also arranged to assist in building a small house of worship in Sweden. Bro. Olssen has charge of the work in Sweden, and Copenhagen, Denmark,



and is a zealous worker. He held 242 meetings during the year, and baptized 21. Bro. Olssen receives support from the Committee, his expenses amounting to about \$240 per year. Bro. Hansen has charge of the work in Thyland. His health has been impaired, but he is at work again. He held 126 meetings during the year, and baptized 13. The Committee assists him in the support of his family with about \$100 per year.

The churches in North Denmark are under the care of Elders Neilsen and Eskildsen, and have been receiving \$150 a year to assist them in preaching the Word. The churches have lost some by emigration to America, but the additions during the year have more than made up the loss, and they now report that they are much encouraged in the work.

#### Germany.

The Committee have nothing to report from Germany. Until means are provided to locate a minister there, but little can be done. They are still sending a few copies of the *Bruederbote* to the Fatherland, but as yet no apparent result has grown out of this effort.

### HOME MISSION WORK.

#### The Texas Mission.

Bro. A. W. Vaniman has been laboring in the Texas field a little more than a year, and during that time 32 have been added to the church by baptism. Bro. Henry Brubaker, of Nebraska, has also located in Texas, and the work there is in a prosperous condition. The expense attending the mission for the year has been \$200—\$100 were used in assisting Bro. Brubaker to move to the State.

#### Dakota.

Brethren B. F. Miller and W. G. Cook took charge of some work in this Territory, under direction of the Committee. Nine were received into the church by baptism, and one reclaimed. Expense attending the work, \$50.

#### Tennessee.

The Committee sent \$150 to the District of Tennessee. The result of the work there, as reported, is most gratifying. One church was organized, and 26 were baptized.

#### Southern Missouri.

Two hundred dollars were most judiciously expended in this



District. Two churches were organized, and 40 received by baptism.

#### North-Western Kansas and Colorado.

In this District, from which more calls have come than could be filled, the Committee expended \$100. Four churches were organized, and one received by baptism.

#### Assistance to State Districts.

Southern Missouri, .....	\$200 00
Tennessee, .....	150 00
North-western Kansas and Colorado, .....	100 00
Northern Missouri, .....	100 00
Nebraska, .....	50 00
Dakota, .....	50 00

#### Church Erection.

Covina, California, .....	\$100 00
Keplinge, Sweden, .....	257 09
Pleasant View, Kansas, .....	200 00
Salem, Nebraska, .....	100 00
Honey Creek, Missouri, .....	150 00
Sidney, Nebraska, .....	250 00

#### Summary.

Meeting Houses provided for, .....	7
State Districts assisted, .....	6
Churches organized, .....	7
Received by baptism, .....	147

From the foregoing report and summary, it will be seen that God has blessed the mission work of the church. It is true that the results are not what they might have been, had the Committee been able to supply all the calls for help. It is to be hoped that the good work will be carried on until we, as a church, have carried the Gospel to all the nations of the earth.

#### REPORTS OF STATE DISTRICTS.

Northern Illinois.—Received for mission work, \$523.21; expended \$327.91; seven received by baptism.

North-Eastern Kansas.—Received and expended for mission work, \$55.66.

Tennessee.—Amount expended for mission work, \$72.66; one church organized; twenty-six received by baptism.

North-Western Ohio.—Received for the mission work, \$146.17; expended, \$100.76.

Northern Indiana.—Received for mission work, \$164.78; expended, \$105.14.



Southern Iowa.—Expended for mission work, \$14.57.

Michigan.—Received for mission work, \$66.28; expended, \$39.73.

North-Eastern Ohio.—Received for mission work, \$146.17; expended, \$100.41.

Nebraska.—Expended in mission work, \$108.57.

Southern Missouri.—Received for mission work, \$255.00; expended, \$240.00; churches organized, 1; received by baptism, forty-six.

Southern District of Illinois.—Received and expended for mission work, \$131.30; churches organized, 1; received by baptism, twenty-four.

Oregon.—Received for mission work, \$187.00; one received by baptism.

Southern Indiana.—Received for mission work, \$151.26; expended, \$113.60; churches organized, 1; baptized, seventeen.

Eastern Pennsylvania.—Received for mission work, \$734.70; expended, \$475.00; church erection, \$152.94; mission work, total, \$627.94.

First District of Virginia.—Expended for mission work, \$260.00.

North-Western Kansas and Colorado.—Received for mission work, \$216.82; expended, \$133.24; churches organized, 4; baptized, three.

Middle Indiana.—Received for mission work, \$143.08; expended, \$74.20.

Middle Iowa.—Received for mission work, \$92.00; expended, \$66.00; one church organized; one baptized.

The State Districts, with few exceptions, have neglected to report the names of those set apart as missionaries subject to the call of the General Committee, as recommended by last Annual Meeting, thus leaving the Committee in need of men.

MONEY RECEIVED AND EXPENDED.

Sisters' Mission, .....	\$ 258 66	
Foreign Mission, .....	269 68	
General Mission, .....	3348 95	
Balance on hand, April 7, 1886, .....	812 72	
		\$4690 01

Contra.

Mission work in Sweden and Denmark, .....	\$1177 90
Expense of bringing Bro. Hope's family to America, .....	451 81
Home mission work, .....	850 00
Building meeting-houses, .....	1057 09



Bruederbote to Germany, .....	\$ 70 00	
Printing reports, postal cards and circulars, ....	60 95	
Traveling expenses of Committee, .....	42 40	
Postage, .....	2 90	
Balance on hand, .....	976 96	
		\$4690 01

### TOTAL RECEIPTS FOR ALL PURPOSES.

General Church Erection and Missionary Com- mittee, .....	\$3877 29	
Hope Home Fund since last report, .....	1520 08	
Received by State Districts, .....	3258 23	
Amount for Missionary Work, .....		\$8655 60
Total amount received for Bro. Hope's Home, .....		\$2692 24

The following list shows the sums of money contributed by each State and Territory:

Illinois, .....	\$1284 02	Minnesota, .....	\$ 20 50
Ohio, .....	927 31	California, .....	19 80
Pennsylvania, .....	673 75	Washington Ty., .....	12 20
Indiana, .....	576 58	Michigan, .....	12 05
Iowa, .....	195 28	Canada, .....	11 60
Kansas, .....	172 45	Florida, .....	10 05
Maryland, .....	112 67	Colorado, .....	10 00
Virginia, .....	97 45	Idaho, .....	7 10
Nebraska, .....	79 00	Dakota, .....	3 80
Missouri, .....	51 05	Montana, .....	1 00
Texas, .....	40 35	Oregon, .....	50
West Virginia, .....	39 20	Alabama, .....	25
Tennessee, .....	22 75		

### Bequests.

Sister Engel, Maryland, .....	\$292 00
Henry Eby, Pennsylvania, .....	58 94

### MONEY RECEIVED AND EXPENDED.

A comparison of the foregoing report with that of 1886, shows an increase in receipts for mission work alone of \$802.46, or over 20 per cent. Including the Bro. Hope Home Fund, the receipts for the current year exceed those of last year by \$1,150.37, an increase of more than 27 per cent.

The increase comes from a few States. Quite a number of States show a falling off in the amounts given for mission work.

Illinois stands first on the list, with nearly \$1,300.00, or about one-fourth of all the money received during the year, with an increase of \$235.00 over last year.

Ohio comes next, with an increase of over \$500.00. She has more than doubled her liberality of last year, and has placed to her credit over \$900.00.



Pennsylvania shows an increase of a few dollars. Maryland more than doubles the amount of last year. Virginia and Nebraska show an increase, whilst Iowa falls much below last year. Kansas also falls short of the previous year's donation. The increase is quite encouraging, but the General Brotherhood comes far short of giving according to the plan adopted by Annual Meeting, which says:

"Let each member, at all able to do so, give, for general church and mission work, one cent, or more if able, each week, as the Lord has prospered him, upon the principle taught in 1 Cor. 16: 1, 2."

If this plan were carried out, and it might easily be done and no one burdened, the States would pay as follows: Pennsylvania, \$7,800.00; Ohio and Indiana, each \$5,200; Virginia, \$2,600.00; Illinois, \$2,200.00; Iowa and Kansas, each, about \$1,500.00; Maryland, \$1,300.00, and other States in the same proportion. This would place in the hands of your Committee about \$35,000.00 annually. With this sum, fifty active, faithful brethren could be kept in the field all the time, and aid could be given for the erection of fifty meeting-houses annually. If the Brotherhood would do her whole duty in this matter, who can estimate the grand work that might be done in winning souls to Christ, and extending the borders of our beloved Zion?

The only expense attending the receiving and paying out and accounting for the Mission Fund, outside of the traveling expenses of the Committee to attend the meetings, has been \$2.90 for postage. The Committee have labored free of charge, and the Secretary and Treasurer has given his time and labor to the work without pay.

Daniel Vaniman, Foreman; D. L. Miller, Secretary and Treasurer.

24. The following was reported by the Brethren's Book and Tract Work, dated May 1, 1887:

Balance on hand from last year, .....	\$ 289 50
Donations from churches, .....	481 63
Donations from individuals, .....	58 80
Cash memberships, .....	40 00
From sale of tracts, .....	44 05
From sale of Golden Gleams, .....	272 00
From sale of books, .....	77 17
<hr/>	
Total cash from all source, .....	\$1263 15
Out-standing accounts, .....	220 64
Memberships on the endowment plan, .....	3200 00
Grand total, .....	\$4683 79



**Expense Account.**

Printing bills and books, .....	\$ 743 24	
Railroad fare, freights, stamps and sundries, ....	116 15	\$ 859 39
		<hr/>
Balance on hand, .....		\$3824 40
Less memberships on endowment plan, .....	\$3200 00	
Out-standing accounts, .....	220 64	3420 64
		<hr/>
Cash balance on hand, .....		\$ 403 76

**Summary.**

Cash balance on hand, .....	\$ 403 76
Out-standing accounts, .....	220 64
Endowment notes, .....	3200 00
250 Golden Gleams, .....	125 00
60 Books, .....	52 50
125 Pamphlets, .....	3 12
44000 Tracts, .....	143 00
Stationery and fixtures, .....	14 00
	<hr/>
Present worth, .....	\$4162 02

**Number of Publications.**

English.—1,000 Golden Gleams, 1,600 Books and Pamphlets, 5,000 Gospel Messengers (Mis. No.), 59,000 Tracts.

German.—1,000 "Der Bruederbote" (Mis. No.), 2,000 Tracts.

Swedish.—13,000 Tracts.

Danish.—6,000 Tracts.

Total.—88,600.

**Number of Publications Sold and Distributed.**

Golden Gleams, 750; Tracts, Books, Messengers and Bruederbote, 43,850; Total, 44,600.

Number of Publications on hand, 44,600.

The Executive Committee of the Tract Work suggest that the following changes be made in the Constitution, which were adopted by Annual Meeting:

1. "That Art. 3 end with the word 'collected.'

2. "Art. 5.—Any person paying, or obligating him or herself to pay, twenty or more dollars as a life membership, as an endowment of the Work, or otherwise, shall be entitled to draw publications annually to the value of one dollar for each twenty dollars so contributed.

"And we suggest, further, that Annual Meeting say whether the duties of the Examining Committee of the Book and Tract Work are confined to the productions of the Brotherhood."

Answer: They are.



"And we suggest that it is not consistent with the interests of the Church for brethren to sell or distribute such books or tracts as have been disapproved by the Examining Committee."

Answer: Decided that it is not consistent.

"And if not consistent, ought not Annual Meeting to advise that their sale or distribution by brethren be discontinued?"

Answer: Yes; Annual Meeting so advises.

Bro. Adam Minnick was re-appointed member of the Executive Committee of the Tract Work, and Bro. Isaac Frantz was appointed in the place of B. F. Miller, whose time expired.

In accordance with the recommendation of the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee, said Committee was authorized to accept donations for an Endowment Fund, to be placed on interest and the increase from it to be used in the mission work of the Church. The plan for securing and investing said Fund shall be left in the hands of the Committee.

Bro. D. L. Miller was re-appointed on the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee.

J. R. Gish having resigned, J. W. Price was appointed to fill his unexpired term on the same Committee.

S. S. Mohler was re-appointed on the Examining Committee.

Jacob Rife was appointed to fill the vacancy on same Committee caused by the resignation of R. H. Miller.

Resolved, that we tender our thanks to the Committee of Arrangements for their kindness and for the very efficient manner in which they have conducted this Annual Meeting.

We also tender our thanks to the proprietors of Forest Park, and to the City of Ottawa, for their kindness to our people during the Meeting.

And we thank the railroad companies and their employees for their kindness and for the pains they have taken to convey our people to this Meeting.

#### Committees to Visit Churches.

To the churches at Germantown, Philadelphia, Coventry, George's Creek, Huntingdon, etc., in Pennsylvania: R. H. Miller, David Long, E. W. Stoner, J. F. Oller, and B. F. Moomaw.

To Berrien church, Michigan: S. S. Mohler, Edmund Forney, and Jesse Stutzman.

To Irish Grove, Warren Co., Iowa: S. S. Mohler, Michael Sissler, and B. F. Flory.



To Upper Twin Creek and Lower Stillwater churches, Ohio:  
R. H. Miller, D. E. Price, David Neff, Enoch Eby, and M. J. McClure.

Annual Meeting to be held in the Middle District of Indiana,  
in 1888.

#### Standing Committee of 1887.

F. W. Dove,	J. W. Trostle,	S. M. Loose,
Jacob Thomas,	Isaac Barto,	J. H. Miller,
Solomon Buckalew,	Geo. Barnhart,	R. H. Miller,
David Long,	Enoch Eby,	J. R. Gish,
James Quinter,	M. M. Eshelman,	Daniel Chambers,
J. D. Parker,	B. F. Moomaw,	D. E. Brubaker,
Jesse Stutzman,	S. H. Myers,	S. B. Shirkey,
L. W. Teeter,	E. W. Stoner,	C. Holdeman,
Edmund Forney,	Wm. Hertzler,	J. E. Hilkey,
M. J. McClure,	J. C. Johnson,	B. F. Flory.
		M. J. McClure, Clerk.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF 1888.

North Manchester, Ind.

On Friday, May 18, the Standing Committee met and organized by electing Enoch Eby, Moderator; J. G. Royer, Writing Clerk; D. N. Workman, Reading Clerk; and S. S. Mohler, Door-keeper.

On Tuesday morning, May 22, the General Council was opened by the usual devotional exercises.

On motion, the rules governing the deliberations of former Annual Meetings were re-adopted.

#### QUERIES.

1. Will the District Meeting ask the Annual Meeting to require the delegates that are sent by the churches to be present during every session of the Annual Meeting, unless providentially hindered? This District Meeting urges the Annual Meeting to grant the request.

Answer: Passed.

2. Inasmuch as Annual Meeting has granted the liberty of conscience to wear a full beard, also granted the liberty of conscience not to salute such brethren, will not the District Meeting



ask the Annual Meeting to decide that brethren should clip their mustache so as not to hinder in the salutation of the kiss?

Answer: Brethren who do not trim the hair on the upper lip so that they may be decent and orderly shall be considered as offenders and dealt with accordingly.

3. Since Annual Meeting has granted brethren three different ways to wear their hair, and has forbidden them to shingle their hair, will not the District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to stop the fashion of shingling the hair among the brethren?

Answer: Brethren should not follow the fashions of the world in the cutting or wearing of the hair or beard. 1 Peter 1: 14.

4. Inasmuch as there seems to be some agitation throughout the Brotherhood in regard to changing the name of the church we respectfully ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting not to change the name. Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Thirteen papers besides the above were presented on the change and nonchange of the church name. Decided to make no change.

5. We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to advise the Brethren of the several States, where they have objectionable forms of affirmation, to petition the rulers of their States to use the simple form of Ohio and Pennsylvania, and omit the words: "Under pain and penalty of perjury. So help you God." Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: We submit this matter to the Brethren in those States where the objectionable forms of affirmation exist; but caution our Brethren to be careful not to compromise their non-swearing principles.

6. We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to caution brethren, especially ministering brethren, in regard to speaking or writing too flatteringly of sections of the West or any other section of the country.

Answer: Annual Meeting advises brethren to write more about the work of the Lord and less about speculation.

7. We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to have our Hymn Book and Hymnal revised on the following bases:

1st. About five hundred of the best hymns to be selected from our present hymn book.

2nd. A number of other good, familiar hymns, not to exceed one hundred, to be added, of which some shall be especially adapted to the wants of children.



3rd. The Hymnal to contain no duplicates of tunes, but as nearly as possible to contain the music of all the tunes used in the Brethren's congregational worship.

4th. The time and the music of the tunes to be used as nearly as possible as originally written, the same character notes to be used as those in our present Hymnal, the binding to be plain, good and substantial, and not to exceed two kinds for the Hymnal, as well as for the Hymn Book.

Answer: The Revision of the Hymn Book is deferred two years.

8. We, the members of the Mound church, assembled in council, do hereby ask District Meeting of Southern Missouri (to be held May 3 and 4, 1888), to petition Annual Meeting not to allow any brethren (elders or others), who use tobacco in any form, except for medicinal purposes, to be sent on committees to adjust difficulties that may exist in local churches or between members. Yes, we so petition. Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: We re-affirm the former decision of Annual Meeting upon the use of tobacco, and strongly urge all our members to quit its use.

9. A number of papers were presented, requesting Annual Meeting to discontinue the practice of feeding a mixed multitude on Sunday (Pentecost). The papers were referred to a committee which reported as follows:

We, your committee, after carefully reading the papers submitted to us by Standing Committee, beg leave to make the following report: However much we may be in favor of avoiding feeding a mixed multitude on Sunday, we are met on every side by the impracticability of such a course, as our Annual Meeting is often held where there are but few brethren; hence we decide to make no general change, but advise Committee of Arrangements, where such Meetings are held to dispense with the traffic of everything on Sunday except what is really necessary, and that all cooking be done on Saturday, to avoid as much labor as possible on Sunday.

Samuel H. Myers,  
E. W. Stoner,  
D. E. Price,  
Jacob Rife,  
Samuel Driver.

Report accepted.



10. Does the general ruling of the Brethren church allow a brother to attach himself to, and become a member of, the association of the Grand Army of the Republic? And if it does not, what course should be pursued in dealing with a brother who is a member of that organization? This District Meeting does not admit of it, and any brother doing so should be dealt with according to Matt. 18: 17.

Answer: Passed with its answer.

11. Will not this District Meeting petition Annual Meeting to so arrange that the Annual Meeting Minutes be sent free to each congregation, with the understanding that they be read in the churches (see Acts 16: 4), and the expense be paid by the General Brotherhood? Yes, with the recommendation that every church be supplied with a sufficient number to supply each family with a copy.

Answer: Referred to a committee, which reported as follows:

In order that each family of members may annually be supplied with a copy of Minutes of Annual Meeting, beginning with Minutes of 1888, we recommend that Annual Meeting (1) make it the duty of the Secretary of each State District to send the name and address of each overseer in his District to the Secretary of Annual Meeting as soon as practicable, and as near as possible the number of families in each local church. (2) The Clerk of Annual Meeting shall publish about 30,000 copies, and shall send a sufficient number to each overseer to supply each family in his care with a copy through the deacons going on a visit, or otherwise. (3) The expenses of publishing, mailing, etc., to be paid by the State District Treasurers out of District funds, in proportion to number of families reported by each Secretary.

Lewis W. Teeter,  
Daniel Vaniman,  
W. R. Deeter,  
Jesse Stutzman,  
S. W. Hoover.

The report was adopted.

12. We, the Brethren of the Eel River church, do hereby petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting of Middle Indiana, to reconsider Art. 9 of 1887, and re-adopt Art. 3 of 1849; but, in case Annual Meeting refuses to grant the request, we ask Annual Meeting to define what constitutes a case of necessity, and



also the kind of cap, if allowed to be worn by the brethren. Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: We do not presume to define a case of necessity, but when worn for comfort we see no impropriety in wearing a plain cap, but would strongly urge forbearance with each other. See Eph. 4: 2, 3.

13. Inasmuch as there are local churches in the Brotherhood that receive into the church as members those who have more than one companion living at the same time, and such members move from one State or local church district to another, with letters of commendation, and the church where they move to cannot accept such letters, on account of such marriage, we petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to give the Brotherhood a Minute on the above question, so all the churches may know who, in such cases, are eligible to membership, and thereby maintain a unity of action in receiving applicants for baptism, and that all churches may work together in harmony, and by so doing maintain the unity of the Spirit in love. We cannot accept any as applicants for baptism who have been divorced and marry again while their former companions are living, or retain any who are members and go and marry again. See Matt. 19: 9; Mark 10: 11, 14; 1 Cor. 7: 11-39. Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Since the results of former decisions on the divorce question prove unsatisfactory, and since this is a very important question, and in order that we may act cautiously, this paper, with all former decisions, was put into the hands of a committee of five brethren, to report at next Annual Meeting.

14. Whereas the offensive use of tobacco continues among us, notwithstanding the numerous decisions of Annual Meeting, and the apostle bidding us "cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit," 2 Cor. 7: 1, therefore, will not Annual Meeting ask brethren, on receiving applicants into the church, that they advise them to abstain from the use of tobacco?

Answer: This Meeting advises brethren to do so.

15. Will not Annual Meeting authorize the Missionary Board, in aiding poor churches in the United States to build meeting-houses, that they loan the fund and not donate it? Let the conditions of the loan be left to the discretion of the Board.

Answer: The Committee has authority either to loan or donate, by Art. 2, 1884.

16. The Woodbury church asks District Meeting to petition



Annual Meeting that the decision in regard to feet-washing, 1877, be so changed that when a large majority of the members agree that the single mode shall be the order of practice, it may be so observed.

Answer: This question is answered under Query 3, of 1887.

17. Annual Meeting ordered last year's Minutes to be corrected by putting on this year's Minutes the following report of the committee which audited the books of the Treasurer of the General Church Erection and Missionary Board:

We, the undersigned committee, appointed by Annual Meeting to audit the account of D. L. Miller, Treasurer of the Church Erection and Missionary Committee, do report that we have carefully examined said account, beginning June, 1884 (that is when the accounts commenced), and ending April 5th (that closes the accounts with this report), and find them all correct without an error in a single figure. Respectfully submitted, signed by the Committee, S. Z. Sharp, S. R. Zug, Levi Mohler.

18. What shall be done with poor widows and others not able to support themselves? The churches here are not able to give them sufficient help. There is a case where a widow has children. If she neglects to have her children confirmed in the State church, she cannot receive assistance from the Government, and our churches are too poor to help her.

Answer: Referred to the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee. At the request of the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee the Annual Meeting granted them privilege to create a fund for the benefit of the poor members in Denmark and Sweden. Remit to D. L. Miller, Treasurer, Mt. Morris, Ill.

19. Shall we open our meeting-houses to ministers of other denominations? See 2 John 1: 11.

Answer: We think Brethren should be careful not to open their doors to influences which would militate against the doctrine and simplicity of the gospel of Christ, as understood by the Brethren. See 2 John 1: 10, 11. Our churches have always been open for funeral occasions. Passed.

20. Is it right to insure property against fire? If it is not right, what shall be done if a brother's house and all that he has burns? The insurance companies will pay nothing unless we make oath to our losses.

21. Is it right to send our children to the State church schools, when they are taught a strange and false doctrine? If



not right, what shall we do when both the Danish and Swedish laws compel us to give them as much scholastic science as they receive in our State Schools? We are poor and cannot open schools of our own.

The two above queries are referred to the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee, with Bro. Hope added, with instructions to see to the wants of the Brethren in Denmark and Sweden.

22. After receiving Endowment Notes and Bequests amounting to nearly \$30,000.00, it was found that, in order to properly invest and manage this Fund, the Committee should be incorporated. We, therefore, suggest to Annual Meeting, through Standing Committee, that the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee be authorized to incorporate.

Answer: Passed.

23. Whereas the work of securing an Endowment Fund has been hindered by some disputing the right of the Committee to solicit such Fund, we therefore suggest that Annual Meeting approve the plan, and that the soliciting be continued for both the Missionary, and Book and Tract Fund.

Answer: Approved.

#### REPORTS.

##### Report of Committee on Church Property.

Your Committee appointed at last Annual Meeting to ascertain the best manner of holding and controlling Church Property, both at home and in foreign countries, report as follows: We believe the question referred to is one of great importance, but, owing to the fact that no provision was made for funds, we have been unable to obtain legal advice and our investigation has not been full. We, however, suggest the following plan: (1) We recommend that the Church be chartered under some permanent name. (2) Under such chartered organization, trustees be appointed, three or five to act as legal representatives of the Church, who shall hold all real or personal property, at home or in foreign countries, belonging to the General Brotherhood, not otherwise provided by will, subject to such decision as the Church may make.

Jos. C. Lahman,  
John Wise,  
A. Hutchison.

The former committee on Church Property continued, and necessary means provided.



### Report of Committee on Publication.

We, the undersigned committee, appointed by Annual Meeting of 1887, on publications for the Brotherhood, respectfully submit the following:

1. That the Brotherhood shall purchase the entire outfit and interest of the Brethren's Publishing Company, and merge this and the Brethren's Book and Tract Work into one corporation, the corporate name of which shall be the \_\_\_\_\_ Publishing Work.
2. The object of this corporation shall be to disseminate the principles of the gospel of Christ, as understood by the Brotherhood, by publishing such papers, books, tracts, etc., as may be directed, for sale and for free distribution in this and in foreign countries, in reading rooms, railroad depots, on cars, on board of outgoing and in ports of incoming vessels—in short, everywhere, as means for publication and judicious distribution can be secured.
3. The Standing Committee shall, by approval of Annual Meeting, appoint and perpetuate a board of five trustees, to serve for a term of five years, except four of those first appointed, who shall serve respectively, one, two, three, and four years, the Standing Committee to name the term of each. These trustees shall meet as soon as practicable after their election, and after being organized and incorporated according to law, they shall purchase, at a reasonable price, the entire outfit and interest of the Brethren's Publishing Company, and shall merge this and the Brethren's Book and Tract Work into one corporation, to be held in trust and controlled by them for the General Brotherhood, under such regulations as Annual Meeting may provide. All the property and interests of the Brethren's Book and Tract Work shall be turned over to these trustees, to be continued by them as directed by Annual Meeting.
4. The Standing Committee shall, by approval of Annual Meeting, appoint a committee, consisting of three members from the territory west of the Mississippi River; four between the Mississippi and Ohio; and three east of the Ohio River, to locate the Publishing House; and they shall as soon as possible proceed to select a place and report to the trustees.
5. The trustees may establish Branch Houses when and where they deem them necessary.
6. The trustees shall select an executive committee of three Brethren, two of whom may be of their own number, living sufficiently near each other for frequent consultation, and also as near the Publishing House as suitable brethren can be obtained. They



may serve as long as desired by the trustees. They shall counsel with, and direct the business manager, who shall be directly responsible to them for all the business intrusted to him.

7. The trustees shall appoint a thorough and reliable business manager, who shall take direct charge of and manage all the business intrusted to him as directed by the executive committee. He shall, by virtue of his office, be corresponding secretary, and may hold his position as long as desired by the trustees. His books, as well as the entire office, and all the business connected therewith, shall, at all times, be open for the inspection of the executive committee; and, whenever desired, he shall render to said committee a full and correct report of all or any part of the business.

8. The trustees shall, at their first meeting, appoint an agent in each State District, who may appoint others to assist in soliciting donations, bequests, and interest-bearing endowment notes to pay for, and forward the Publishing Interests. These agents shall work under the instructions of the trustees, who shall allow them a reasonable compensation for their services out of the funds collected; and if by Jan. 1, 1889, sufficient funds are not available, the trustees may then issue interest-bearing bonds to meet the deficiency; said bonds to be redeemed as soon as practicable, with profits, donations and bequests.

9. The trustees shall meet as often as necessary, and a majority of the board shall, at any legally called meeting, constitute a quorum. They shall have power to fill any vacancy occurring in the board for the unexpired term; and they shall annually make a report of their work to Annual Meeting after having first submitted it to Standing Committee for inspection and approval; and shall, through Standing Committee, suggest to Annual Meeting for adoption anything necessary to forward their work; and they may also recommend to the Standing Committee persons for trustees.

10. The Book and Tract Work shall be merged into this incorporation, by making it the duty of the board of trustees to appoint the tract committee, and to oversee and govern it through its executive committee.

11. The Standing Committee shall nominate a number of suitable brethren to be voted for as editors; and after a careful consideration of their Christian character and qualifications, shall, by a majority vote, recommend to Annual Meeting for approval, one editor-in-chief and one office editor, to serve for a term of four years, provided they give general satisfaction; otherwise either one or both of them may be removed sooner by the advisory commit-



tee and the board of trustees, who shall fill the vacancy caused in this or any other way until next Annual Meeting.

12. The trustees shall arrange the salary of the editors and business manager; employ all other help; procure suitable buildings, and all else needful to carry on the work successfully. All expenses incidental to locating, transferring and carrying on the publishing work, to be paid out of the funds of the corporation.

13. Twenty-five per cent of the profits arising from publications shall be turned over to the Book and Tract Department, and seventy-five per cent to the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee. Signed by S. S. Mohler, R. H. Miller, Daniel Vaniman, Enoch Eby, M. M. Eshelman.

The report was deferred two years, and the committee given the privilege to publish and explain it in the Gospel Messenger.

#### **Report of St. Louis Church.**

This is to certify that, of the thirty-one members baptized into the First St. Louis Brethren church part have died, some were expelled, and others have moved from the City, until only seven remain; part of these intending to move soon, and as no way seems open to make the church prosper under existing circumstances, therefore we have this day, Sept. 11, 1887, by consent of the members present, agreed to disorganize said church by giving letters of membership to the remaining members, and we recommend to next Annual Meeting that it sell the church property in St. Louis, belonging to the General Brotherhood, and turn the money received therefor over to the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee, to be used by them in forwarding the Lord's work.

John Metzger,  
Daniel Vaniman.

We, the Church Erection and Missionary Committee of Southern Illinois, endorse the above recommendation.

James Wirt, Clerk; David Vaniman, Foreman.

The District Meeting of Southern Illinois endorses the above recommendation.

M. J. McClure, Clerk; Daniel Vaniman, Moderator.

Adopted by Annual Meeting.

**Report of the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee  
to Annual Meeting Held at North Manchester, Ind., May  
22 to 25, 1888.**

To the General Conference of the Brethren (or German Bap-



tist) Church, assembled at North Manchester, Indiana, Greeting:—

The General Church Erection and Missionary Committee submit the following report of its work for the current year, ending April 3, 1888:

The year which has just closed has been remarkable on account of the stringency of monetary affairs, and yet the Committee is glad to report, the receipts of money for building meeting-houses and for the missionary work of the church show an increase over any former year since the adoption of the present plan. With such means as the Church has placed in its hands, the Committee has labored to the best of its ability to assist weak churches, and for the spread of the Gospel. With God's blessing, some work has been done, a brief report of which is herewith respectfully submitted.

#### FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The work in Denmark and Sweden has been carried forward with zeal by the brethren who have it in charge. A number have been added to the Church by baptism. New stations for preaching the Word have been established, and altogether the outlook is encouraging. The money for a meeting-house, the first built by the Brethren in Sweden, has been appropriated. Last year a room for meeting purposes was secured at a small cost at Keplinge. The new meeting-house will be built at Linhavn, Sweden. Bro. Olsson reports that he has held during the year 300 meetings. Twenty-three were received by baptism, and remain true to the faith. His field of labor is large, and embraces Copenhagen, Malmo, Trelleborg, Eslof, Linhavn, Sallrup, Lomma, Flaidie, Keplinge, and Skurup. He is alone in the work and needs assistance. Bro. Hansen held 228 meetings in Thyland and surrounding country, and has opened up a new field in Mors Island. During the year five were baptized in Denmark.

#### HOME MISSION WORK.

##### The Texas Mission.

Brethren Henry Brubaker and A. W. Vaniman have charge of the Texas mission field, laboring in different localities. During the year twenty-three have been added to the Church by baptism, one church organized, and two ministers and two deacons elected. The work is in a prosperous condition, and we are impressed with the fact that the only way to make a success of mission work is to put faithful brethren in the field, and keep them there until success crowns their efforts.



**Dakota.**

Bro. B. F. Miller is in charge of some mission work in this Territory, and reports favorable openings for preaching the Gospel.

**Southern District of Missouri.**

This District received aid to the extent of \$250.00 for mission work, and was also assisted in building meeting-houses at La Forge, Mo., and at Stuttgart, Ark. The report from the Secretary of their Mission Committee shows that during the year 76 were baptized, and four churches were organized.

**Washington Territory.**

Bro. Daniel E. Brubaker, of Iowa, spent some time under the auspices of the Committee in this Territory. Three were baptized, and a good interest was manifested in the work.

**Tennessee.**

One hundred dollars was expended in Tennessee, and the brethren from that field report that they held 45 meetings in Tennessee and 32 in North Carolina. Seven were received by baptism and six reclaimed.

**Northern District of Missouri.**

In this District one hundred dollars was used, and as a result the District Committee reports that 111 meetings were held, seven baptized, with three applicants for baptism at an early day.

**Florida.**

Bro. J. H. Moore, of Way Cross, Georgia, has charge of the mission work in Florida, the General Committee assisting him by paying his traveling expenses.

**Assistance to State Districts.**

Southern District of Illinois,.....	\$100 00
Northern District of Missouri,.....	100 00
District of Tennessee,.....	100 00
Southern Kansas,.....	300 00
North-eastern Kansas,.....	30 00
District of Oregon,.....	10 00
Southern District of Missouri,.....	250 00

**Meeting-houses.**

La Forge, Mo.,.....	\$200 00
Lipscomb, Texas,.....	300 00



Tennessee .....	\$150 00
Stuttgart, Ark.,.....	300 00
Plympton, Kans.,.....	125 00
Malmö, Sweden,.....	810 00

### Summary.

Meeting-houses provided for,.....	6
State Districts assisted,.....	7
Churches organized,.....	5
Received by baptism, .....	154

### REPORTS OF STATE DISTRICTS.

**Northern Illinois.**—Received for mission work, \$544.45; expended \$371.13; seventeen received by baptism.

**Southern Missouri.**—Received for mission work, \$600.00; expended, \$481.22; seventy-six baptized; fourteen reclaimed; four churches organized.

**Southern Ohio.**—Receipts, \$200.19; expenditures, \$134.60; nineteen baptized; two applicants.

**Northern Missouri.**—Receipts, \$241.90; expenditures, \$125.15; seven baptized; three applicants.

**Southern District of Indiana.**—Receipts, \$253.28; expenditures, \$212.76; twenty-nine baptized; three reclaimed.

**Nebraska.**—Receipts, \$348.77; expenditures, \$92.65.

**Southern Kansas.**—Receipts, \$242.98; expenditures, \$39.11; forty-six baptized.

**First District of Virginia.**—Receipts, \$357.65; expenditures, \$293.65. In addition to the above, a deacon in the District built a meeting-house at a cost to himself of \$700.00.

**Southern Illinois.**—Receipts, \$245.13; expenditures, \$108.38.

**North-Eastern Kansas.**—Receipts, \$106.00; expenditures, \$60.50; received by baptism during the year, eighty-nine.

**Middle District of Indiana.**—Receipts, \$232.40; expenditures, \$165.98.

**Northern District of Indiana.**—Receipts, \$301.93; expenditures, \$157.12.

**District of Tennessee.**—Receipts, \$157.61; expenditures, \$165.07.

**Middle Iowa.**—Received and expended, \$25.95; baptized five.

**Michigan.**—Receipts, \$78.85; expenditures, \$30.59.

**Eastern Pennsylvania.**—Received, \$244.55; expended, \$147.30.

### Summary.

Amount received by State Districts,.....	\$4881 64
Amount expended,.....	3311 16



**MONEY RECEIVED AND EXPENDED.**

General Mission Fund,.....	\$4174 14	
Foreign Mission Fund,.....	10 27	
Balance on hand, April 5, 1887,.....	976 96	
		<hr/>
		\$5161 37

**Contra.**

Home Missions,.....	\$1634 42	
Foreign Missions,.....	705 52	
Building meeting-houses, .....	1885 00	
Lot in Malmo, Sweden,.....	231 40	
Traveling expenses of Committee,.....	40 19	
Postage and exchange,.....	14 96	
Balance on hand,.....	649 88	
		<hr/>
		\$5161 37

**ENDOWMENT FUND.**

Notes due 1900, interest at 5 per cent,	
Notes due at death of donor, interest at 5 per cent,	
.....	\$18850 00
Bequests to be paid at death of donors,.....	10370 00
Cash, .....	387 50

The following list shows the amount contributed by each State and Territory:

Illinois, .....	\$1003 33	Washington, Ty., .....	\$ 37 80
Ohio, .....	551 06	Minnesota, .....	31 25
Pennsylvania, .....	456 73	Oregon, .....	16 00
Indiana, .....	412 39	Tennessee, .....	14 50
Iowa, .....	246 75	Texas, .....	12 55
Maryland, .....	183 43	Florida, .....	8 14
Kansas, .....	126 68	Dakota, .....	5 85
Missouri, .....	75 49	Colorado, .....	5 20
Virginia, .....	65 75	Michigan, .....	3 00
Nebraska, .....	63 23	New Jersey, .....	1 20
West Virginia, .....	56 40	Arkansas, .....	1 00
California, .....	47 00	District of Columbia, ..	1 00

**Bequest.**

Estate of Clara E. Horn, deceased, Roseville, Ohio, .....	\$500 00
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**MONEY RECEIVED AND EXPENDED.**

The receipts for the Mission and Church Erection Work for the current year show a total increase of \$307.12 over last year, and of \$1109.57 over the preceding year. It is gratifying to note an increase of interest in the good work, and it is to be hoped that the interest will continue to grow until every individual member in our beloved Fraternity will have a lot in this great work of spreading the Gospel.



The present missionary plan was adopted by Annual Meeting at Dayton, O., in 1884, and in the four years that have passed since then, nearly \$15,000.00 has been received and expended in Mission and Church Erection Work by the Committee. The following is a summary of the work accomplished:

Churches organized,.....	16
Meeting-houses provided for,.....	17
Number received by baptism,.....	362

From this it will be seen that God has abundantly blessed the work, and we are encouraged to hope for greater results in the future.

At the last Annual Meeting, held at Ottawa, Kans., the General Committee was authorized to formulate a plan by which an endowment fund for Mission and Church Erection Work might be secured and invested. The first donation to this fund was made July 5, 1887, and the total amount received to this date is \$29,707.50. But little effort has been made to secure donations to this fund. Only one State District has been canvassed fully, Southern Illinois, and the sum of \$10,175 is placed to the credit of the Fund by that District. What has been done in Illinois, with only a few thousand members, ought to be many times doubled in other States, where our membership is much more numerous.

The usual comparison shows that Illinois stands at the head of the list, with a little over \$1,000.00.

Ohio stands next, with \$551.06, and a bequest of \$500.00 from a sister whose last wish was to give something for the spread of the Gospel. This bequest, made by sister Clara E. Horn, of Roseville, Ohio, has since been increased by the receipt of \$500.00 more.

Pennsylvania and Indiana stand nearly equal, with something over \$400.00 to their credit.

It is believed by the Committee that an effort should be made to secure more means from those States that are not at present doing as much as the importance of the work demands. The indications are that the work will steadily increase, and, looking back for a period of ten years and noting the progress made by the Church in the great work of spreading the Gospel, we take courage and thank the Lord for what has been done; and, looking to him for guidance, we are hopeful of the future.

D. L. Miller,

Daniel Vaniman,

Secretary and Treasurer.

Foreman.

We, the Committee appointed by this Annual Meeting to examine and audit the books of D. L. Miller, Treasurer of the Gen-



eral Church Erection and Missionary Committee, report that, having examined said books up to and including April 3, 1888, find them to be correct.

J. F. Oller,  
E. A. Miller,  
Geo. W. Cripe.

**THE REPORT OF THE BRETHREN'S BOOK AND  
TRACT WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY  
1, 1888.**

Balance on hand from last year,.....	\$ 403 76
Donations, Tabernacle, Ottawa,.....	63 94
Donations from churches,.....	543 28
Donations from individuals,.....	61 95
Cash Memberships,.....	380 00
Interest on Endowments,.....	264 00
From sale of Tracts,.....	205 40
From sale of Golden Gleams,.....	223 95
From sale of Books,.....	295 15
From outstanding accounts last year,.....	20 45

Total cash from all sources,.....	\$ 2461 88
Outstanding accounts,.....	200 19
Endowments last year,.....	3200 00
Endowments this year,.....	12525 00

Grand total,.....\$18387 07

**Expense Account.**

Railroad fare, board-bill, room-rent, at Ottawa,....	\$141 68
Committee on Publishing Interests,.....	90 75
Printing bills and books,.....	1138 06
Postage, freight, and sundries,.....	85 24
On interest,.....	100 00

	\$ 1555 73
Balance,.....	\$ 16831 34
Less amount outstanding,.....	\$ 200 19
To Secretary,.....	100 00
Endowments, interest-bearing,.....	8165 00
Endowments, non-interest-bearing,.....	8200 00

Cash balance on hand,.....\$ 16665 19  
\$ 166 15

**Summary.**

Cash balance on hand,.....	\$ 166 15
Outstanding accounts, .....	200 19
Endowment Fund,.....	16365 00
Golden Gleams, .....	220 00



Books, .....	\$ 78 65
52,600 Tracts, variety,.....	90 50
3,600 Pamphlets, variety,.....	130 50
Stationery and fixtures,.....	10 00
<hr/>	
Present worth,.....	\$17260 99
Worth last year,.....	4162 02
<hr/>	
Increase, .....	\$13098 97

#### Number of Publications.

On hand from last year, all kinds,.....	44335
Tracts and Pamphlets published,.....	115000
Golden Gleams,.....	1000
Books, .....	1416
<hr/>	
Total, .....	161751

#### Number of Publications Sold and Distributed.

Books and Gleams,.....	1002
Tracts, .....	99550
<hr/>	
Total, .....	100552

S. Bock, Secretary.

We, your Committee appointed to audit the report of the Book and Tract Work, have examined said report, and do hereby certify it to be correct.

J. D. Parker,  
J. C. Lahman,  
S. H. Miller.

S. Hoover and S. D. Royer were re-elected on the Book and Tract Work.

S. F. Sanger, Virginia, appointed on Examining Committee in place of B. F. Moomaw.

R. H. Miller was re-elected on the Advisory Committee.

Charles Hawbecker, Illinois, was appointed on the General Church Election and Missionary Board.

S. S. Mohler, John Zuck, D. B. Eby, D. E. Price, M. S. Newcomer, were appointed on the Committee to Astoria and Woodland churches.

The Standing Committee re-appointed the committee sent by last Annual Meeting to George's Creek church, to carry into effect their decisions, and set in order such other things as may at this time be wanting. R. H. Miller, David Long, E. W. Stoner, J. F. Oller, and B. F. Moomaw are the committee.

The Second District of Virginia renews the request for Annual Meeting for 1889.



Answer: Accepted.

The Southern District of Illinois made a call for Annual Meeting of 1889, or as soon thereafter as may be expedient.

A request came from the Brethren of the Middle District of Missouri for the Annual Meeting of 1890.

A request came from North-eastern Kansas for the Annual Meeting for 1890, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Resolved that this Meeting requests Geo. L. McDonaugh to act as our agent to secure railroad rates for Annual Meeting. Mr. McDonaugh accepted the position.

We, the members of the many churches representing our beloved Brotherhood, do with pleasure express our thanks:

1st. To God, our Heavenly Father, for the privilege of another Annual Meeting.

2nd. To our Moderator, Reading and Writing Clerks, and Reporter, for their untiring efforts to serve us.

3rd. To the brethren, sisters, and citizens of North Manchester and vicinity, for their kindness and hospitality in entertaining us as they have.

4th. To the railroad companies and their agents for their good accommodations and kindness shown to those attending the Meeting.

5th. To the Committee of Arrangements for the supply of all our wants.

6th. To the Watchmen for the good order preserved during the Meeting.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE OF 1888.

Isaac Studebaker,	J. G. Royer,	C. L. Pfoutz,
Lemuel Hillery,	David Eby,	C. Bucher,
George Myers,	Benj. Fryfogle,	N. Martin,
George Stambaugh,	Peter Long,	W. Franklin,
C. C. Root,	Daniel Snell,	Jonas Graybill,
Fred Culp,	Wm. Harshbarger,	Jacob Thomas,
J. S. Gable,	Landon West,	J. W. Eller,
A. M. Dickey,	L. H. Dicky,	D. B. Arnold,
Marcus Fowler,	D. N. Workman,	Geo. C. Bowman,
Thos. D. Lyon,	J. Holsinger,	C. Hope.

Enoch Eby,

Moderator.

J. G. Royer,

Writing Clerk.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1889.

Harrisonburgh, Va.

On Friday, June 7, the delegates of the Standing Committee met, and after devotional exercises, the following organization was effected: S. S. Mohler, Moderator; J. G. Royer, Writing Clerk; John Wise, Reading Clerk; Enoch Eby, Door-keeper.

On Tuesday morning, June 11, the General Council was opened by the usual devotional exercises.

On motion, the rules governing the deliberations of former Annual Meetings were adopted.

The following resolution referring to representation by proxy was adopted:

Resolved, that delegates for Standing Committees who do not reside in the State District choosing them as delegates, can be admitted only when chosen by District Meetings in foreign countries.

## QUERIES.

1. Will District Meeting say whether it is right for sisters to wear riding habits? Sent to Annual Meeting with the following answer: We would advise them to avoid superfluities, and to keep within the rules of the church in plainness and non-conformity to the world.

Answer: Passed.

2. Should the carrying of gold watches be made cause for expulsion of members from the church? We consider that 1 Tim. 2: 9; 1 Pet. 3: 3, and Art. 7 of Annual Meeting of 1864 is sufficiently clear against the carrying of gold watches to enforce discipline on the subject.

3. Will District Meeting petition Annual Meeting to advise the elders of churches to see that at least one pastoral visit be made to each member of their congregation during the year? The District Meeting does so petition Annual Meeting.

Answer: Passed.

4. Since members are not to attend fairs, political meetings, etc., (p. 293 Classified Minutes), and since some brethren have wood-choppings and quiltings on the same day, and these gatherings lead to a party in the evening, at which various plays are en-



gaged in, will District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to give us a decision? District Meeting decides that it is wrong for members to allow or take part in such plays. 1 Cor. 10: 7.

Answer: Passed.

5. Reconsideration of Prohibition query was taken up, and the following unanimously passed: Whereas, in the consideration of query No. 2 from Western Maryland, there unfortunately obtained a misunderstanding among our brethren, producing very unsatisfactory results by creating a wrong impression as to our position on the subject of Temperance, therefore, Resolved, that this Annual Meeting recommend that all our brethren carefully maintain our position against the use, or toleration of intoxicants, whether to manufacture, to sell, or use as a beverage, and to the extent of our influence contribute our part to secure practical prohibition; but that we be advised against taking part in the public agitation of the subject.

6. Will Annual Meeting limit the term of office of the Tract Examining Committee to five years, and so arrange that the term of office of one member of the Committee expires each year?

Answer: We grant the above request, and decide to have the term of office to expire as below: Landon West, 1890; Jacob Rife, 1891; S. F. Sanger, 1892; S. S. Mohler, 1893; E. Eby, 1894.

7. The spiritual wants of the Brethren in Canada have been supplied by Southern Ohio for several years, but on account of the increased expense incurred by the long distance to be traveled, the District Meeting of Southern Ohio petitions Annual Meeting to regard the members in Canada as a foreign mission, and place them under the care of the General Mission Board.

Answer: Annual Meeting grants the above request.

8. Is it according to the Gospel for a local church to be represented at Annual Meeting by a sister as delegate?

Answer: We cannot say that it is according to the Gospel to do so.

9. The Lick Creek congregation asks Annual Meeting through District Meeting for the authority for ministers who are not ordained elders to anoint the sick.

Answer: Annual Meeting refers to Art. 54, 1862, as authority on the subject of the query.

10. Berkley church, Western Maryland, petitions Annual Meeting through District Meeting that no delegate to Annual Meeting



or member of the Standing Committee be accepted as such unless he abstain from the habit of using tobacco.

Answer: District Meeting grants the requests and Annual Meeting passes the same.

11. Has a local church a right to make a decision, requiring members to present all direct charges in writing signed by the person making the charge?

Answer: Local churches may require charges to be given in writing with the signature of the author. See Art. 12, p. 72 Classified Minutes.

12. L. and S. are two congregations, each with one house of worship situated in the towns L. and S., from which these congregations derive their names. These towns are eight miles apart. The territorial line, at present, is within two miles of L. Some of the members of the S. congregation live less than three miles from the place of meeting in the L. congregation, whereas they are six miles from the place of meeting in their own, the S. congregation. These members have asked the S. congregation to change the line so as to allow them to hold their membership in the congregation whose place of meeting is three miles nearer to them. The S. congregation has refused to do this on the grounds that if all the members who live nearer places of meeting in surrounding congregations should demand the same privilege, the number in the S. congregation would be so reduced as perhaps to destroy their organization, the membership being small as lines now stand. Has the S. congregation the right, under existing circumstances, to retain members who live nearer places of worship in surrounding congregations, and who want their membership in other congregations because the services there are more convenient for them to attend? The Lanark church requests this District Meeting to ask Annual Meeting to answer.

Answer: The "S." congregation has a right to hold her members.

13. The Union Center church, Northern Indiana, asks Annual Meeting through District Meeting to have the General Church Erection and Missionary and the Book and Tract Work controlled by one Committee; and the soliciting done by the same solicitor.

Answer: Annual Meeting deems it best to postpone the question of merging the above Committees into one until the question of transferring the Publishing Interests to the General Brotherhood is determined. In the meantime we think it proper to have one set of solicitors if the churches prefer.



14. Eastern District of Pennsylvania asks Annual Meeting to publish the Minutes in common (New Testament) German.

Answer: Annual Meeting grants the request and directs the Minutes to be published as requested.

15. Southern District of Iowa petitions Annual Meeting to reconsider Art. 19 of 1874, and adopt the decision given in Art. 4 of 1873. "Will not this District Meeting petition Annual Meeting of 1874, to reconsider Article 4 of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1873?"

"Answer: Yes, and have the answer to read as follows: 'And he shall be tried in the church where his membership is, except where a member commits an offense in his church and changes his membership before it is settled, he shall then go back to the church he left and be tried there.' Confirmed by the Annual Meeting upon a reconsideration of the query." Art. 4 of 1873 reads: "Whereas there is a difference of practice among brethren in proceeding with members who trespass in congregations in which they have not their membership, some trying the case in the congregation where the trespass was committed, while others would try it in the congregation where they live, will not this Meeting say where the offense shall be tried, thereby establishing a uniform practice in the Brotherhood?"

"Answer: The offender should be tried in the congregation in which the offense was committed."

Answer: Decided not to reconsider, and hence no change.

16. The consideration of the query on Missionary System, from Middle Missouri, was deferred one year.

17. Is it right, according to the Gospel, for members of the church to join the Brotherhood of Carpenters, Farmers' Alliances, or other similar organizations?

Answer: No. See 2 Cor. 6: 14-18; 2 Tim. 2: 4.

18. District Meeting of Southern Kansas requests Annual Meeting to urge the individual churches in the Brotherhood by their bishops, to use their influence to circulate the *Brüderbote*.

Answer. Annual Meeting passed the above.

19. North Morrill church petitions Annual Meeting through District Meeting to adopt the majority instead of the plurality vote in electing church officers.

Answer: Decided to make no change.

20. Northern Iowa asks Annual Meeting through District Meeting to reconsider Art. 14, 1881. If it is wrong to elect and install officers who use tobacco, is it not wrong for elders who use tobacco to officiate in such installations?



Answer: Art. 14, 1881 is so reconsidered as to prohibit an elder from installing officers while he uses tobacco.

21. The Brethren of Bethel church, Northern Missouri, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to have the named answers printed, when it answers queries by referring to former decisions.

Answer: The above request is granted.

22. Is it right for members of the church, while attending meetings of other denominations, to rise when the request is made for all who are Christians to rise to their feet?

Answer: Not right. See 2 John 10 and 11. Answer: Passed.

#### Denmark Queries.

1. Can you send us a Swedish or Danish brother in the ministry to assist us in this great mission field?

Answer: We submit this question to the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee.

2. (a) Is it right for members to work in tobacco factories, or to manufacture tobacco for use or for the trade?

Answer: We advise that members should as much as possible refrain from laboring in the tobacco business as employees in any way, according to Matt. 5: 16; 1 Thess. 5: 22.

(b) Is it right for members to engage in tobacco traffic, either wholly or in connection with other merchandise?

Answer: We advise that members should not do so according to Art. 11 of Minutes of Annual Meeting of 1886.

(c) Is it right for members to smoke, chew, or snuff tobacco or use it in any form as a habit or for pleasure?

Answer: It is wrong to use tobacco in any form with the single exception for medicinal or mechanical purposes, according to James 1: 21; 2 Cor. 7: 1, and therefore we strongly urge all our members to quit its use.

3. Shall we receive into the church those who have been baptized by trine immersion just as our brethren baptize? Bro. Hope baptized some who did not unite with the church [the church not being fully organized,—Clerk] and those have baptized others, and now one of those so baptized asks to be taken into the church having full faith in his baptism. Can he be received without re-baptism?

Answer: We decide that none should be admitted into the



church who have been baptized as stated in the above query, unless they are baptized again by a legally authorized administrator of the German Baptist Brethren. See 1 Cor. 12: 13; also Minutes of Annual Meeting, Art. 3, 1883.

## REPORTS.

### Report of Committee on Church Property.

Your Committee appointed at Ottawa, Kansas, in 1887, and re-appointed at North Manchester, Indiana, in 1888, for the purpose of reporting to this Meeting what course of legal procedure is necessary to secure a good title for property for the use of the Brotherhood, both at home and in foreign countries, submit the following Resolutions of Incorporation:

1. That the General Conference of the German Baptist or Brethren Church at its Annual Meeting, now in session, proceed to the election of five trustees, to be incorporated under sections 1998 and 1999 of the Revised Statutes of the State of Wisconsin, and the following named persons,—L. W. Teeter, Hagerstown, Ind.; S. R. Zug, Mastersonville, Pa.; H. C. Early, Meyerhoeffer's Store, Va.; Henry Frantz, New Carlisle, Ohio; H. C. Baker, Rock Falls, Wis.,—are accordingly elected such trustees for the first year, and until their successors shall be elected.

2. The corporate name by which said trustees and their successors are to be known is "Trustees of the General Conference of the German Baptist or Brethren Church."

3. Said trustees and their successors shall hold their offices for one year, and until their successors are elected.

4. The successors to said trustees shall be elected by the General Conference of said German Baptist or Brethren Church at their Annual Meetings, but any vacancy in the office of such trustees, existing at any time when the Annual Meeting of the said General Conference is not in session, may be filled by the appointment of the Standing Committee of said General Conference.

5. The purpose for which is desired to incorporate said trustees is that they may, in and by their said corporate name, take, receive and hold the title to church property, both real and personal, for the said General Conference of the German Baptist or Brethren Church, wherever such property may be situated, whether in the State of Wisconsin or elsewhere in the United States or in foreign countries, to be used or designated to be used for missionary or other proper purposes of said church, and not specially used for the purpose of any local church or religious society; and to use, manage, convey, or otherwise dispose of the same to the



extent and under such restrictions and limitations as may be prescribed by the General Conference of said German Baptist or Brethren Church.

6. That a certificate of the several matters herein before recited be made and signed by the Moderator or Presiding Officer and countersigned by the Writing Clerk or Secretary of this General Conference and filed in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Wisconsin, to the end that said trustees may be and become incorporated as authorized by said statute.

The Resolutions were adopted as a whole.

**Report of the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee  
to the Annual Meeting Held at Harrisonburgh, Virginia,  
June 11 to 13, 1889.**

To the General Conference of the German Baptist Brethren Church,  
assembled at Harrisonburgh, Va., Greeting:—

Your Committee respectfully submit the following report of the work, which, under God's blessing and the help of the church, they have been enabled to carry forward during the year which closed April 2, 1889.

**FOREIGN MISSIONS.**

In Denmark and Sweden the Brethren have been laboring with their usual zeal in preaching the Word. Twenty were added to the church by baptism. The new meeting-house in Sweden has been completed, and is now used for worship. Bro. Olsson reports that he held, during the year, 319 meetings, and the local minister in Sweden held 70 meetings. Bro. Hansen who has charge of the church in Thyland, held 340 meetings, while the brethren in North Denmark, S. C. Nielsen, P. C. Poulsen and C. Christensen, held 92 meetings. During the year, 8 were baptized in Denmark. Bro. Olsson reports that during the year some have emigrated to America, several have been expelled for sin, whilst some having finished their work have died in the triumphs of faith. On the whole the outlook in Sweden and Denmark is fairly encouraging.

**HOME MISSION WORK.**

**The Texas Mission.**

The work in Texas has been carried forward by the brethren who have been located there, and the outlook is encouraging. Three years ago there was not a minister in the State; there are



now six, and four organized churches, not including those in the Pan Handle.

During the year, ten were baptized and one church organized.

#### Pan Handle of Texas.

Under a call from the Southern District of Kansas, money was appropriated to assist in building a meeting-house at Lipscomb, Lipscomb County, Texas. The house was completed during the year under the direction of Eld. Washington Wyland, who now has charge of the mission work at that place. He reports no accessions, but says the interest both at Lipscomb and Timm's City, where he has an appointment, is good. A number of requests having come before the committee to build meeting-houses in various parts of the Pan Handle, a committee was appointed to visit several localities and report. The committee, after visiting and examining the places calling for help, without expense to the General Committee, made the following report:

To the Church Erection and Missionary Committee:—

The undersigned, your committee appointed to examine the propositions made to Bro. S. Z. Sharp by the citizens of Ochiltree, Texas, to aid in the building of a church to be owned and controlled by the German Baptist Brethren, and also the proposition made by the citizens and Town Company of Farwell, in Hansford County, Texas, to brethren S. Z. Sharp and T. J. Nair, to aid in building a church to be owned and controlled by the German Baptist Brethren, would respectfully report that we think it not best to accept the proposition from Ochiltree, Texas, at the present, but if they leave the proposition open, it may be considered in the future. And further, we do accept the proposition made by the citizens and town Company of Farwell, Texas, to brethren Sharp and Nair, and renewed to us in writing and verbally, and recommend an appropriation from your committee of two hundred or more dollars to build a plain house of worship, about 30x40 feet in size, to be owned and controlled by the German Baptist Brethren, upon the lots selected. All of which is respectfully submitted.

Dated at Lipscomb, Texas, July 3, 1888.

Enoch Eby,

John Wise,

Wash. Wyland,

Committee.

In compliance with the recommendation of the committee, an appropriation of \$250 was made, the Town Company and citizens agreeing to pay about \$750 for the purpose of building a



meeting-house. Eld. John Wise, general missionary for Southern Kansas, took charge of the mission work at Farwell, and in his closing report says: "I think the result was all that we could reasonably expect. There were no additions to the church, but we have the entire confidence of the people." The meeting-house is inclosed, but owing to a failure to get lumber and means at the proper time, has not been fully completed.

#### California.

The General Missionary Committee placed in the hands of Eld. Jacob Witmore, of Centre View, Mo., a call for help in California. Bro. Witmore labored during the winter and spring in that field, and the Lord blessed his labors abundantly. He held a number of meetings in California and Colorado. Thirty-five were added to the church by baptism, and one church organized.

The following States needed assistance from the General Committee:

North-western Kansas and Colorado,.....	\$ 150 00
The District of Tennessee,.....	100 00
Western Iowa and Minnesota,.....	50 00
Northern Missouri,.....	100 00
Northern Indiana, for Canada Mission,.....	64 00

#### Summary.

##### Assistance to State Districts.

North-western Kansas and Colorado, .....	\$ 150 00
Tennessee, .....	100 00
Western Iowa and Minnesota,.....	50 00
Northern Missouri,.....	100 00
Northern Indiana (Canada Mission),.....	64 00

##### Meeting-houses.—Donations.

Buckhannon, W. Va.,.....	\$ 100 00
Rock Grove, Iowa,.....	100 00
Lipscomb, Texas,.....	258 97
Cabool, Mo.,.....	100 00
Mount View, Mo.,.....	40 00
Farwell, Texas,.....	250 00
Valley, Tenn.,.....	60 00
Mansfield, Mo.,.....	150 00
Walnut Valley, Kans.,.....	200 00

##### Loans to Meeting-houses.

Sidney, Nebr.,.....	\$ 300 00
Rock Grove, Iowa,.....	300 00
Chapman Creek, Kans.,.....	254 67



Mount View, Mo., .....	\$ 100 00
Walnut Valley, Kans., .....	300 00

### General Summary.

State Districts assisted, .....	6
Meeting houses provided for, .....	9
Loans to meeting-houses, .....	5
Churches organized, .....	2
Received by baptism, .....	158

### REPORTS OF STATE DISTRICTS.

**Southern Iowa.**—Received for mission work, \$19.92; expended, \$27.38; 65 sermons preached and 3 baptized.

**Northern Iowa.**—Receipts, \$56.00; expended, \$30.81, received into church fellowship by baptism, 13.

**Northern Missouri.**—\$180.00 expended in mission work; 179 meetings held; 7 new points opened up for preaching; 1 meeting-house provided for, and 8 received by baptism.

**Northern Illinois.**—Received, \$488.52; expended, \$414.24; baptized, 32; reclaimed, 3; churches organized, 2.

**Southern Illinois.**—Expended in mission and church erection, \$472; 58 meetings held; 18 baptized and 1 meeting-house built.

**Nebraska.**—Received for missions work, \$166.07; expended, \$85.09.

**North-eastern Kansas.**—Receipts, including Hope Fund, \$192.05; expended, \$128.20.

**Middle Missouri.**—Receipts, \$421.50; expenditures, \$398.35; baptized, 85.

**Northern Indiana.**—Received, \$214.24; expended, \$278.33.

**Southern Indiana.**—Received, \$245.28; expended, \$188.68; baptized, 13; reclaimed, 4.

**Eastern Pennsylvania.**—Received, \$337.61; expended, \$126.22.

### Money Received and Expended.

General Mission Fund, .....	\$ 5587 28
Balance on hand April 3, 1888, .....	649 88
	<hr/> \$6237 16

### Expenditures.

Home Missions, .....	\$ 1352 60
Foreign Missions, .....	1055 54
Building Meeting-houses—Donated, .....	1258 97
Building Meeting-houses—Loans, .....	1254 67
Traveling Expenses of Committee, .....	57 17
Endowment Fund Expense, .....	255 79
Printing and Missionary Messengers, .....	154 75



Recording Corporation Papers, .....	\$ 3 00
Balance on hand, .....	844 67
	<hr/> \$6237 16

### Endowment Fund.

Interest-bearing Notes, .....	\$27,780 00
Bequest Notes, .....	10,050 00

### Not Recorded.

Cash, .....	\$ 1,497 50
	<hr/> \$39,327 50
Not Recorded, .....	\$ 1,000 00
	<hr/> \$40,327 50

The following list shows the amount given by States and Territories:

1. Illinois, .....	\$1,363 63	12. Texas, .....	\$ 36 55
2. Ohio, .....	767 20	13. West Virginia, .....	29 30
3. Pennsylvania, ..	619 62	14. Washington Ty., ...	19 00
4. Indiana, .....	606 46	15. Minnesota, .....	12 50
5. Iowa, .....	225 49	16. Tennessee, .....	11 90
6. Maryland, .....	134 86	17. Oregon, .....	6 40
7. Missouri, .....	134 65	18. Indian Territory, ....	4 20
8. California, .....	128 93	19. Idaho, .....	1 50
9. Virginia, .....	111 29	20. Dakota, .....	1 40
10. Kansas, .....	101 39	Clara E. Horn's Estate,...	700 00
11. Nebraska, .....	97 39	Unclassified, .....	494 51

The year covered by this annual report has been one of marked improvement in the interest taken by our people generally, in the mission work. This is shown by the large increase in the amount received for the work. The receipts show a total increase of \$1,403.79 over the preceding year, or a little over 28 per cent. This is certainly gratifying, and it is hoped that the interest will continue until the entire Brotherhood will stand as one man in the great work of spreading the Gospel.

Five years have passed away since the present missionary plan was adopted, and during this time over \$20,000.00 has been received and expended in the mission and church erection work by the Committee. The following is a summary of the work accomplished:

Churches organized, .....	19
Meeting-houses provided for, .....	36
Number received by baptism, .....	520

The work thus accomplished, under God's blessing, is most encouraging, and when we consider its far-reaching consequences, we should be encouraged to make greater efforts in the future than have been made in the past.



The work of canvassing for the Endowment Fund has not been carried forward as vigorously as the Committee desired it to be. The failure arises from the lack of brethren who are willing to take up the work. The fact that nearly \$32,000.00 has been secured in the two Districts of Illinois, shows what might be done if the entire church were solicited.

By a comparison of States it is shown that Illinois stands first on the list as to the amount of donations, with nearly \$1,400 or one-fourth of the entire amount of donations, and about two-thirds of the Endowment Fund. Ohio stands next on the list with \$767.20, and Pennsylvania and Indiana are nearly equal with a little over \$600.00 each. These three States have each increased their donations by about \$200. California, with but a handful of members, gives more than Virginia, and stands nearly equal with Maryland and Missouri. Kansas, notwithstanding crop failures, gives nearly as much as either of the States of Maryland, Missouri, California and Virginia.

The Committee urge upon the consideration of the churches in those States that are not yet taking an active part in this work the necessity of doing so at once. The calls for help increase; millions of souls are perishing, and will we not come up to the help of the Lord and take part in the great work of spreading the Gospel? The future looks hopeful. The Lord is blessing this work, and every one of his children should have a part and a lot in the blessing that will surely follow giving to the Lord.

D. L. Miller,  
Secretary.

D. Vaniman,  
Foreman.

We, the Committee, to whom was referred the report of the Missionary Board, report that we have examined the same, and find the same correct in every particular. Signed by the Committee.

J. S. Kuns.  
J. F. Oller,  
I. D. Parker,

The Church Erection and Missionary Committee respectfully submit to the Standing Committee the following plan for securing active missionary workers:

In order to meet the growing demands for suitable ministers and teachers, to be located and used as directed by the District Committees or by the General Church Erection and Missionary



Committee, the General Committee recommends to Annual Meeting, for approval, the following:

1. Let churches, having suitable brethren for the above purpose, from time to time hold elections for the special purpose of securing the best talent possible for the various localities in the missionary field of the world.

2. Let such as have been elected either for the home work or for this special purpose, after being proven efficient workers who are willing to work under direction of the District or General Committee, be recommended by the churches in which their membership is, to the General Committee, specifying age, occupation, degree of office, number in family, etc.

Put into hands of the following Committee: L. H. Dickey, D. B. Eby and S. H. Myers.

#### Annual Report of the Brethren's Book and Tract Work for the Year Ending May 1, 1889.

Balance on hand from last year,.....	\$	166	15
Donations—Tabernacle, North Manchester,.....		77	86
"    From churches,.....		570	17
"    From individuals,.....		152	88
"    From Maple Grove Sunday-school,.....		2	82
"    From Sisters' Mission, Huntingdon,.....		5	00
From sales of tracts, Gleams, Bibles, and books, .....		866	87
From Interest on Endowments,.....		482	38
From Cash Endowments,.....		100	00
From Paid Endowments,.....		125	00
<hr/>			
Total cash from all sources,.....	\$	2,549	13
Outstanding accounts,.....		269	09
Endowments last year,.....		16,365	00
Endowments this year,.....		7,893	00
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Grand total,.....	\$	27,076	22

#### Expense Account.

Railroad fare and board bills,.....	\$	112	10
Freight, room rent, N. M. and sundries,.....		52	98
Stamps, .....		72	14
Iron Safe, .....		23	50
Distributing tracts and agents' services,.....		114	72
Printing,.....		510	17
Books, .....		471	38
Secretary, .....		300	00
Foreman, .....		100	00
<hr/>			
Balance,.....	\$	25,318	73



Less outstanding accounts,.....	\$ 269 09
Endowments—Interest-bearing,.....	11,233 00
Endowments—Non-interest bearing,.....	13,025 00
Placed to Endowment Fund,.....	200 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 24,727 09
Cash balance on hand,.....	591 64

**Summary.**

Cash balance on hand,.....	\$ 591 64
Outstanding accounts,.....	269 09
Endowment Fund,.....	24,258 00
Gleams, .....	122 50
Books,.....	155 20
Pamphlets, 7,650,.....	96 00
Tracts, 63,400,.....	105 00
Safe, stationery and fixtures,.....	40 00
Present worth,.....	<hr/>
	\$ 25,637 43
Worth last year,.....	17,350 99
	<hr/>
Increase,.....	\$ 8,286 44

**Summary of Publications.**

Gleams—Number on hand last report,.....	900
Tracts and Pamphlets—Number on hand last report,.....	61,200
Tracts and Pamphlets published,.....	120,000
Books published,.....	500
Bibles and Books purchased,.....	562
Gospel Messengers (Missionary Number) purchased,.....	5,000
	<hr/>
Total,.....	188,152

**Number of Publications Sold and Distributed.**

Messengers, .....	5,000
Books and Gleams,.....	998
Tracts and Pamphlets,.....	115,150
	<hr/>
Total,.....	121,148

Samuel Bock, Secretary.

Dayton, Ohio.

Your Committee, to whom was referred the report of the Book and Tract Work for the year ending May 1, 1889, would report that they have audited the same and find that it is correct. Signed by the Committee.

D. S. Filburn,  
H. C. Early,  
W. C. Teeter.

**General Expenses.**

May 27, 1889, Attorney's fees in preparing papers of incorporation of church,.....	\$100 00
“ “ “ Traveling expenses (J. C. Lahman).....	5 00



### Expense of Committees.

John Wise,.....	\$5 00
S. S. Mohler,.....	5 00
E. Eby,.....	5 00

Above amount was accepted.

The following was unanimously passed by Annual Meeting: "Since it is very apparent that a General Treasury is needed, therefore Standing Committee recommend to Annual Meeting that a General Treasury be established, which shall be known as Annual Meeting Treasury, for the purpose of defraying all expenses not otherwise provided for. Funds for said Treasury shall be secured by assessments made on the treasurers of the several State Districts as may be required from year to year." Bro. S. H. Myers, of Timberville, Va., was appointed Treasurer for five years.

### COMMITTEES.

Joseph Amick, D. L. Miller and J. G. Royer were appointed a Committee to apportion the general expenses.

Report of Committee to Astoria and Woodland churches was read and approved, and the Committee continued.

Committee to George's Creek church, Pa., reported that they failed to visit the church. Standing Committee appointed David Long, Maryland; D. B. Arnold, West Virginia; and E. W. Stoner, Maryland, to visit George's Creek, Elk Lick and Markleysburg churches.

W. R. Deeter, Indiana; Samuel Loose, Ohio; and Peter Long, were sent to visit Thornapple church, Michigan.

Committee on Divorce Question was re-appointed, with Isaac Long in place of Bro. Moomaw.

Daniel Hays was re-appointed as member of Advisory Committee.

Daniel Vaniman and Samuel Riddlesperger were re-appointed on Missionary Board.

Brethren S. Bock and J. A. Hepner's term of office on Book and Tract Work having expired, they were re-appointed.

The request to have the Book and Tract Work incorporated was granted. Also a request to have a room furnished on Annual Meeting grounds free of charge.

S. S. Mohler, R. H. Miller, and Isaac Barto were sent to the Waterloo City church, Iowa.

S. S. Mohler, Jacob Rife and Ed. Forney were sent to Washington church, Indiana.

The following brethren were appointed on Railroad Arrange-



ments for next year: D. L. Miller, General Agent, to be assisted by the following brethren residing in the several Passenger Associations: John Wise, Trans-Missouri Association; S. S. Mohler, Western States Association; J. G. Royer, Central Association; E. W. Stoner, Trunk Line Association; Geo. C. Bowman, Southern Association.

The paper from the Middle District of Pennsylvania, referring to the installation of church officers, was put into the hands of the following brethren to report at next Annual Meeting: Daniel Hays, Landon West, J. F. Oller, D. E. Price and J. S. Mohler.

D. L. Miller, S. S. Mohler, and D. E. Price were appointed to prepare rules governing the deliberations of Annual Meeting.

#### Applications for Annual Meeting.

Middle District of Missouri, North-Eastern Kansas, Middle District of Iowa, Northern Indiana.

Next Annual Meeting will be held with the Brethren of the Middle District of Missouri.

#### Resolutions.

Resolved, that this Meeting hereby tender its thanks.

1. To the various committees for their efforts to secure the comfort of our members in attendance.

2. To the citizens of Harrisonburg and vicinity for their hospitality and kindness.

3. To the various denominations of this city for the use of their churches.

4. To the various Railroad Companies favoring our Brethren with half-fare tickets.

#### Standing Committee of 1889.

John Brubaker,	Jesse Stutsman,	Samuel Flory,
J. W. Eller,	Noah Longanecker,	S. B. Shirkey,
Isaac Long,	L. H. Dickey,	S. S. Mohler,
S. H. Myers,	Lewis W. Teeter,	W. M. Harvey,
D. B. Arnold,	J. W. Wright,	John Wise,
Geo. Leatherman,	Amos B. Peters,	J. A. Root,
S. Stoner,	E. Bosserman,	J. Hollinger,
Daniel F. Stouffer,	D. B. Gibson,	B. F. Flory,
S. R. Zug,	Daniel Dierdorff,	M. M. Bashor,
Jacob Hollinger,	J. F. Eikenberry,	J. S. Flory,
Valentine Blough,	Stephen Johnson,	Christian Hope.
J. G. Royer, Writing Clerk; S. S. Mohler, Moderator.		



## ADDENDA.

On account of an unusual amount of work, demanding my attention at the time the copy of the Minutes was prepared, omissions occurred. I hereby ask the pardon of the Conference, for which body I acted in the capacity of Writing Clerk. I give the corrections below as the best amends I can make.

Your humble servant,

J. G. Royer.

Middle District of Missouri.—“For the purpose of simplifying and improving our missionary system, would it not be best to have one general work and have each State District to be a department of it with its auxiliary committee, and by this means have our missionary work all included in one report?

“Answer: Yes.” Read the above in connection with Art. 16, p. 3.

Art. 1, under Denmark, p. 4, read, in addition to answer given, “and recommend that they send a man if they can.”

Middle Missouri.—What is to be done with ministers who in churches cause offenses by their manner of conducting meetings, of getting applicants for baptism, of instructing or receiving them into the church, or for causing offenses in other ways? Where is their offense to be corrected and how?

Answer: The church where the offense was caused shall, with the aid of one or more faithful adjoining elders, take the testimony in writing and forward it to the church where such minister lives; also a copy of the testimony, with a statement of the offense, to a faithful and adjoining elder to such church, who shall call to his assistance other elders and go into that church and try him upon the testimony forwarded, according to the second paragraph of Art. 4, 1882. If, however, a majority of the church where the offense was committed refuse to send the testimony against said minister, and fail to satisfy the minority that no cause of offense was given, then the testimony of the minority shall be taken and forwarded as above provided. But should the adjoining elder fail or refuse to go into that church and try the minister, then said failure shall be reported to the Standing Committee, which, by consent of Annual Meeting, shall appoint a committee to go into said church to act as provided by Art. 6, of 1886. Answer approved by District Meeting. Passed.

Middle Missouri.—In order to guard against irritation among railroad authorities, would it not be best for the Committee on Arrangements for each Annual Meeting to arrange with the Railroad Companies near to whose lines the meeting is to be held, or whatever railroad officers or other person shall act as our general agent for the ensuing year, to secure rates for the meeting, ar-



range time when tickets be put on sale, and extend time they are good, and report as early as practical through the Gospel Messenger.

Answer: We decide that D. L. Miller act as our General Agent, and that a brother in each Passenger Association be appointed to represent us before said Association. The above was passed.

Report of Committee on Divorce.—“Your Committee respectfully submit the following: On account of hindrances over which your Committee had no control, they have not arrived at a conclusion. They have, however, found that they are not agreed on the question, and recommend that this question be deferred another year and put into the hands of another committee.” Read the above in connection with action of Annual Meeting, p. 14.

Art. 20, p. 4, limiting clause should read, “while he is in the habit of using tobacco.”

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1890.

Pertle Springs, Johnson Co., Mo.

On Friday, May 23, the Standing Committee (representing twenty-two States in the United States and two European States) met and organized by electing Enoch Eby, of Kansas, Moderator; John Wise, of Kansas, Reading Clerk; and J. G. Royer, of Illinois, Writing Clerk.

On Tuesday morning, May 27, the General Council was opened by the usual devotional exercises.

### 1. Report of Committee on Rules:

Your Committee, appointed to compile rules for governing Annual Meeting, respectfully submit the following:

(1) All queries for discussion, with their answers, shall be read by the Clerk, after which the Moderator shall declare the same open for discussion.

(2) The reading of any question may be called for the second time, but not oftener if there be objection made.

(3) No one shall speak without first addressing the Moderator and being recognized by him.

(4) No brother shall have the privilege of making more than two speeches on the same subject, except by the consent of the Meeting, and the first shall not be longer than fifteen, and the last than five minutes.

(5) The Moderator shall require every brother, when speaking, to confine his remarks to the subject before the Meeting.



(6) Any brother using personalities in his speech, shall be called to order by the Moderator; and if he persist, he shall be told to take his seat.

(7) The Moderator shall decide who has the right to the floor, and when his time expires.

(8) The Moderator shall decide when the discussion on each subject shall close, and when the question shall be put on its final passage. But if objection be made to his ruling, then the Standing Committee must unite with him in deciding the matter.

(9) It shall be the duty of the Moderator to keep order in the congregation; and for this purpose he may call to his assistance other brethren, or the Standing Committee may call on brethren to keep order.

(10) No question shall be put upon its passage before the delegate, presenting the question, may have an opportunity to explain it.

(11) Motions or amendments to the answers in papers that are presented to Annual Meeting shall not be entertained by the Moderator until the one, presenting the paper, has opportunity to explain it, and its merits are discussed by the Meeting; then, if there is not a union of sentiment in the Meeting, the Moderator may entertain amendments to the answer.

(12) All members present shall have the right to participate in the discussion of all questions before the Meeting; and in case any query or queries can not pass by unanimous consent, the delegates and Standing Committee shall decide them by a two-thirds majority.

(13) In case a brother, or brethren, shall speak reproachfully against the Annual Meeting, or her proceedings at the time and place of Annual Meeting, said brethren shall be held as offenders against the general Brotherhood, and they shall be tried at once by a committee, appointed by the Standing Committee, and approved by the General Council, and said committee shall deal with them according to their offense, and their decision shall be respected by the General Council, and by the respective churches. The word reproachfully shall not be so construed as to prevent any brother from expressing his opinion with Christian courtesy.

(14) Art. 2, 1880, decides that any of the elders or brethren present, might open the Meeting with devotional exercises but that the Standing Committee should be present.

S. S. Mohler,  
D. E. Price,  
D. L. Miller.



Unanimously adopted.

2. The Committee on Publication offered the following substitute instead of the report deferred by Annual Meeting of 1888:

"We recommend that the publishing interests be not purchased by the Brotherhood at present, but that it be owned by a stock company that will require Annual Meeting to appoint the Editors.

Signed, E. Eby, R. H. Miller, S. S. Mohler, D. Vaniman.

The substitute was accepted instead of the report, and, after discussion, failed to pass the Meeting.

3. The revision of the Hymn Book and Hymnal deferred by Annual Meeting of 1888. The following query was read:

"Appanoose church, Kansas, requests Annual Meeting to take action this year on the revision of Hymnal and Hymn Book query deferred two years ago."

All the papers pertaining to aforesaid revision were referred to the following committee, with instruction to report at next Annual Meeting: J. H. Moore, S. F. Sanger, L. H. Dickey, H. B. Brumbaugh and Jos. Amick.

4. Report of Divorce Committee:

After a long investigation, your Committee begs leave to state that we failed to agree upon the question. Neither did we agree upon a plan which would be likely to give harmony in the Brotherhood. We therefore offer the following: That the majority of the committee give, before this Meeting, a report of the plan they propose as a compromise of the difference among us, with a full explanation of it. The minority of the committee give a like report of their plan, with a full explanation of it. Both these reports shall be put on the Report of Annual Meeting, and the question be deferred one year. At the next Annual Meeting the majority report shall be first taken up, discussed, and voted upon. If it does not pass by a two-thirds majority, then the minority report shall be discussed, and if it does not pass by a two-thirds majority, the subject shall be indefinitely deferred.

The report was accepted.

5. Report of Committee on the following deferred query from last Annual Meeting:

Would it not be more apostolic, to set apart our ministers and deacons in their official duties, by laying on of hands and prayer, as we find in Acts 6: 6?

Answer: After prayerful consideration of the query in its various bearings, we decide that we are not justified to make any change from our present practice.



Signed, Daniel Hays, Landon West, J. F. Oller, D. E. Price, J. S. Mohler.

Unanimously passed.

6. Report of Committee on securing suitable Brethren on missionary work:

(1) Let churches, having brethren possessing the necessary qualifications, from time to time hold elections to increase our ministry with a view of meeting the growing demand for preaching the Gospel, both at home and in all the various localities of the missionary field of the world. And let all ministers, when elected, be advised and urged to hold themselves in readiness as much as possible, to be used by the church wherever they may be needed.

(2) Let the General Mission Board, as often as they deem it necessary, publish the following qualifications necessary for missionaries:

(a) He must be sound in the faith.

(b) He must be able to submit himself wholly under the control and advice of the Mission Board under whose direction he labors.

(c) He must be able and willing to teach and defend the principles of the Gospel and the doctrine and peculiarities of the church, as defined and applied by Annual Meeting, and must manifest the same in his conversation, life and character.

(d) If married, he must have a companion who is to him a true help-meet, possessing, so far as may be, similar qualifications, and who is ever ready and willing to help him in every possible way to carry forward the Lord's work.

(3) Let the several District Meetings each appoint three of their well-established elders, who are known to be favorable to the missionary work of the church, whose duty it shall be to report to the General Mission Board the names of such ministers in their respective State Districts who possess the proper qualifications, and who have proved themselves faithful to the church and efficient workers, and who are willing to be located by, and work under the direction of the District and General Committee. And the above item, if adopted, shall repeal Art. 21 of Minutes of Annual Meeting of 1886.

(4) Let the General Committee give the regular missionaries to understand that they will be furnished with steady employment as long as they prove to be the right men in the right place, and that, while thus employed, they shall be sustained temporally.

Signed, L. H. Dickey, S. H. Myers, D. B. Eby.

Answer: Passed.



7. The queries on the amendment to the missionary plan and the consolidation of the Missionary and Tract Work were referred to the Missionary and Tract Committees. The Committees report against amending the missionary plan, and unanimously favor the consolidation of the Missionary and Tract Work, but ask that it be deferred one year. The report was amended so as to recommend the appointment of a committee of five brethren who, together with the Foreman and Treasurer of the Missionary and Tract Committees, shall report a plan for consolidation at next Annual Meeting.

8. Inasmuch as there is great dissatisfaction occasioned from Brethren acting as real estate agents, and especially those in the ministry, also the manner in which they write about their new locality, will not this church, through District Meeting, ask Annual Meeting to take some steps to stop this wide-spread evil?

Answer: Yes; Brethren must not do so, and if they do, shall fall into the judgment of the church. But this shall not be so construed as to prevent Brethren from doing a legitimate business in real estate. Passed.

9. Is it right for churches of the Brethren to use organs in their meeting-houses in worship? If not, what shall be done with those congregations who have them?

Answer: No; and those who have them be instructed to put them away, and if they will not, to be considered and dealt with as disobedient members.

10. Should a minister, who uses tobacco to gratify a lust of the flesh, be invited to hold a series of meetings, and thus lend his influence to induce the young, by his example, to become slaves to this habit?

Answer: No. Passed.

11. We petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to say if it is in harmony with our rules and principles to use the Gospel Hymns in our public services instead of the Brethren's Hymn Book.

Answer: No. But this should not be so construed as to prohibit entirely the use of hymns that are in harmony with the principles of our Brotherhood, from other books than our own; but preference should always be given to our own collection of hymns. Passed.

12. We request Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to devise some plan by which our poor ministers can be supplied with the books they need to prepare for the ministry.



Answer: Request granted by District Meeting. Churches that have poor ministers shall appoint persons to ask for donations in their church for helping those poor ministers to secure such books as they need to help them in their ministry. Such persons may go outside of their own church when it is not able to render the necessary help.

Passed.

13. As the Annual Meeting of 1886, Art. 11, advises against brethren engaged in business selling tobacco, but as the profits of selling it enables firms that handle tobacco to sell other lines of goods at lower rates, can a church of right demand of a brother to quit handling it so long as a majority or a very considerable number of its members patronize a house or houses that handle it, because they can buy there cheaper? To be sent to Annual Meeting through District Meeting. Paper to be sent to the Standing Committee for an answer. Passed.

Answer: This Annual Meeting considers it right to use every lawful means to prohibit brethren from violating her decisions relative to the tobacco traffic; but deem it inconsistent to make demand like the above, while members patronize those who do sell it.

14. We, the brethren named in connection with query No. 5, Minutes of Middle Missouri, offer the following substitute:

(1) Standing Committee shall, by approval of Annual Meeting, appoint a Committee of three elders for each of the Brethren's schools, living as near as suitable brethren can be obtained, whose duty it shall be to watch over the moral and religious influence of the schools, and see that the principles of the Gospel and church government be carried out as defined by Annual Meeting, and report annually to Annual Meeting the condition of the schools, and they may serve so long as they give general satisfaction to the Brotherhood.

(2) All members of the Faculty, who are members of our church, shall be in full sympathy with the principles and doctrines of the church, and shall conform to the order of the Brotherhood in their personal appearance.

(3) At least once each year the doctrines of the church shall be specially held forth in a series of doctrinal sermons.

(4) These provisions shall apply to all Brethren's schools, and the right to establish additional Brethren's schools shall rest with the Annual Meeting, to which petition for such privilege shall first be presented.



Signed, Enoch Eby, John Wise, R. H. Miller, Daniel Vaniman, D. L. Miller, S. S. Mohler.

Answer: Passed.

15. Will the Middle District of Missouri recommend that the Annual Meeting of 1890 so amend Art. 8, 1876, Minutes of Annual Meeting, page 26, as to require all protests against members participating in the deliberations of Annual Meeting for the causes named in said act, or for any other cause, to be laid before the Standing Committee in writing, signed by not less than three witnesses, upon which the Standing Committee shall appoint committee of three, which will get the parties together and arrange to have the matter of protest investigated, and decide whether it contains sufficient to debar the brother from the privilege of participating in the Meeting? If so, they may sustain the protest and report the facts and their decision to the Standing Committee. If the Standing Committee considers the facts of sufficient importance, it shall refer them, with the decision, to the Annual Meeting, to decide whether the accused shall have the right to take part in the Meeting as aforesaid.

Answer: Passed.

16. Will the District Meeting favor requesting the Annual Meeting to reconsider and adopt Art. 16, 1885, page 112, Revised Minutes, omitting the words, "Or appointment," in fifth line from bottom of said act?

Answer: This District Meeting requests that said article be re-considered by Annual Meeting and adopted with said omission.

The following substitute was offered and passed:

(1) The authority to ordain elders shall be vested in the elders of the State Districts.

(2) The elders assembled at District Meeting shall consult as to the ordination of all elders, to be effected in the District. If a majority of the elders decide that the ordination should be made, they shall appoint a committee of two or more elders who shall go to the church and, in council with it, if they find no Gospel objections, the ordination shall be made.

(3) The necessity of ordaining elders may originate with the officers of the church or the elders of the District.

(4) Elders may be deposed as now by a committee of adjoining elders in council with the church. A report of such deposition shall be made to the elders of the District at District Meeting.



(5) Elders may be restored by the consent of a majority of the elders of the District; and with the approval of the church.

17. Whereas, our Brotherhood has always been opposed to a local, salaried ministry, what shall be done with such brethren who, against all advices, are preaching for a stipulated sum? We consider it wrong for brethren to receive, and churches to give, a stipulated salary, and brethren and churches doing so, shall be admonished to stop receiving and giving such salary; and if they persist in doing so, shall be dealt with as disobedient members. But this shall not be so contrued as to prohibit mission boards or churches from giving a proper support to those laboring under their instruction.

Answer: Passed.

18. What is the general usage of the church in receiving applicants for baptism and granting certificates of membership when objections are raised?

Answer: The general usage of the church in receiving applicants for baptism and granting certificates of membership when there are objections, has always been, for the parties against whom objections are raised, to remove said objections by complying with the demands of the objectors, or the church; but if the church decides that the objections are not sufficient to withhold from applicants the rite of baptism, or certificates of membership, the objectors should withdraw their objections; and if they refuse to yield to the council of the church, they shall be held accountable.

Passed.

19. Inasmuch as a query, passed by Northern District of Indiana, some years ago, prohibiting members of the church from trafficking or dealing in trade with saloon-keepers, seems to fail to meet the full design of said query, we therefore ask District Meeting to decide that it is a transgression of the order of the church for members to go into saloons or other establishments where intoxicants are sold or given away by the drink, and that this District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to make such the rule of all the churches. Passed and sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Passed.

20. As the notes to the New Testament, published by the American Tract Society, and recommended by our Brethren, are evasive and misleading in many things (see note to Matt. 28: 19; John 3: 5; James 5: 14, and for evasions see Acts 8: 38, 39; 9: 18, 19, and 16: 32-34, and many more), will District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to appoint a committee of Brethren to prepare a correct work in harmony with the Gospel and practice of the Brother-



hood, to fill the important want of such a book in our Sabbath-schools, instead of the misleading ones now in use?

Answer: Deferred one year, and submitted to a committee of three for thorough investigation as to nature and cost of the proposed work. Committee, J. H. Moore, D. Hays, L. W. Teeter.

21. Will Annual Meeting give Scriptural authority for allowing ministers who are not ordained to anoint the sick?

Answer: Deferred indefinitely.

22. Since there is a growing tendency among our Brethren who were soldiers in the late rebellion to attend soldiers' reunions, to march with and participate in their exercises, we petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to say whether it is right for Brethren to do so. And if wrong, would Brethren be allowed to meet on such occasions, simply to visit old soldier friends?

Answer: We decide that it is wrong to attend such places.

23. Will District Meeting ask Annual Meeting whether Brethren can be allowed to serve as directors or presidents of banks.

Answer: See answer in Art. 6, 1874. We would admonish Brethren to be very careful in engaging in all kinds of business, and especially in business done by incorporated bodies, such as railroads and banking companies, since, by so doing, they may be brought into dangerous association with ungodly men.

24. Whereas the suggestions given by Annual Meeting in 1888 have failed to enable the Executive Committee to do away with the much traffic necessary to feed the mixed multitude that gathered at our Annual Meeting grounds on Sunday; and, whereas, the continuance of such Sunday traffic subjects our beloved Brotherhood to much unfavorable criticism, as well as causes considerable dissatisfaction among our members; therefore, will not District Meeting of Second District of Virginia petition Annual Meeting to devise a plan by which the Executive Committee need not make any provisions to feed any one on Annual Meeting grounds until Whitmonday, that the aforesaid Sunday traffic may be avoided? We grant the within request and send to Annual Meeting.

Answer: We, your committee, deeply deplore the disorder complained of in the paper, and would advise a strict adherence to the advice given in Art. 9, of 1888. Also that, as much as is in the power of the Committee of Arrangements, they prevent Sunday excursions. Also to dispense with the selling of meal tickets on Sunday as far as possible, thus removing the disorder without sacrificing our Sunday religious services and pleasant associations.



Signed, J. S. Mohler, Levi Trostle, J. F. Oller, A. B. Barnhart, H. C. Early.

25. The Brethren in Denmark and Sweden ask for permission to act according to Revised Minutes, page 159, Art. 13. If not permitted, please give the Biblical authority against doing so.

Answer: This Annual Meeting can not grant the request asked for. See 1 Cor. 12: 13; Eph. 4: 5; Acts 19: 1-7. The above answer is committed into the hands of D. L. Miller and Daniel Hays to explain to the Denmark Brethren.

26. What shall we do with members who will not hinder their children as long as they can from being confirmed? Shall we exclude such members from the church?

Answer: No. But parents should be warmly admonished to teach their children the doctrines of the true church, and use their influence against their being confirmed.

27. The Brethren here ask our Brethren in America if they will please let us know how they do if a member, excluded from the Brethren, goes over to another church (not of the Brethren), who require baptism, and such an excluded person is baptized again into another church (not of the Brethren), and, after a lapse of time, such excluded person comes back and is converted, and asks the Brethren's forgiveness, and confesses to be in full faith and acceptance of that baptism received of the Brethren, and asks to be a member of the Brethren church again, do the Brethren receive such a person into the church again as a member? What shall we do in such a case?

Answer: Yes. See Revised Minutes, Art. 22, 1852, on page 83, and proceed as directed in Art. 9, 1861, on page 84.

28. Our common desire and wish is, that our Brethren in America, if possible, send us a Danish, Norwegian, Swedish or English brother as a preacher (or brethren C. Hope and D. L. Miller for two years, of whom we have heard), to work in Scandinavia. We need some brethren to help us for a longer time in the Gospel work. Have you a preacher to send us?

Answer: Annual Meeting refers this request to the General Mission Board.

29. The Brethren in Malmo, Sweden, wish to ask the Brethren in America if they do not think it more advantageous to build a mission house in Malmo than to pay so much in rent every year.

Answer: Annual Meeting refers this to the Mission Board also.



Greeting: Our warmest love and united thanks to the whole Brotherhood in America for all your sympathy and help, extended to us in Europe up to this day. The Lord reward you all with his blessing both in this and the world to come! (Signed in behalf of churches in Denmark.)

Answer to Greeting: The Annual Meeting held at Warrensburg, Mo., May 29, 1890, to the Dear Brethren and Sisters in Denmark and Sweden, Greeting: Your brotherly letter of greeting was read in our Annual Council, and gave us joy; and we send you our hearty and loving greeting, and pray the Lord may abundantly bless you, and cause you to continue to grow in faith and in the knowledge of the truth. Your queries sent to Annual Meeting in America have been received and considered in the fear of the Lord, and we fondly hope that our endeavors to help you may prove, under God's blessing, to be the means of promoting brotherly love and building you up in the faith once delivered unto the saints. Grace be with you all! Farewell.

Signed, Enoch Eby, Moderator; J. G. Royer, Clerk.

**REPORT OF THE GENERAL CHURCH ERECTION AND  
MISSIONARY COMMITTEE TO THE ANNUAL  
MEETING HELD AT PERTLE SPRINGS,  
MISSOURI, MAY 27 TO 30, 1890.**

The General Church Erection and Missionary Committee submit the following report of the work which, under the blessing of God, they have been enabled to carry on during the year which has closed.

**Foreign Missions.**

Denmark.—There are four organized churches in Denmark,—Hjörning, Hördum, Sindal and Copenhagen. The latter-named church is under the care of Elder John Olsson, of Malmo, Sweden, and is placed in that district. The membership in Denmark numbers 75. There are 2 elders, 3 ministers in the second degree, and 3 deacons. During the year 496 meetings were held, 5 were baptized, 2 emigrated to America, 1 died, and two were expelled.

Sweden.—The church in Sweden has now a membership of 56; 453 meetings were held during the year; 11 were baptized; 3 emigrated to America; 5 were expelled. The official body of the church is composed of 1 elder, 2 ministers in the second degree, and 1 in the first degree, and 3 deacons.

**Home Mission Work.**

Texas.—Our Brethren in Texas continue to labor for the cause, and report that much labor is required to fill the calls made on



them in the various fields. The members live in Montague, Cook, Clay, Parker, Erath, Hunt and Lipscomb Counties, and in Indian Territory. There are about 120 members; 10 were received by baptism last year. There are now in the State 3 elders, 5 ministers in the first and second degree, and 7 deacons. In the Pan Handle the work is discouraging. The meeting-house at Farwell is in the hands of Bro. T. J. Nair, he having satisfied the committee for amount donated by note.

Idaho and Washington.—Brethren D. E. Price and J. C. Lahman spent some time in Idaho and Washington. Their labor was for the most part in the direction of unifying and setting in order the things that were wanting in the churches. They report the great need of these fields to be faithful ministers and elders.

New York.—Bro. S. H. Zug did some work in this State. One was baptized, and Bro. Zug reported a good opening for mission work. The report was referred to Eastern Pennsylvania.

Kentucky.—Bro. I. J. Rosenberger did some work in Kentucky, and is now in charge of that field. Three were baptized and the outlook is encouraging.

Canada.—Bro. J. W. Metzger, of Indiana, has charge, for the present, of the Canada mission. His health did not permit him to labor as he would like to have done. Two were baptized, and the prospect for future work is good.

Mission Work Among the Scandinavians in America.—Bro. Hope, by authority of the General Committee, and under the supervision of the State Districts, has been laboring during the past winter among the Danes and Swedes in Nebraska. He visited a number of churches and preached in English and Danish, as occasion required. As a result the Lord blessed his labors, and 35 were added to the church by baptism and 1 reclaimed.

#### Assistance to State Districts.

Oregon, .....	\$200 00
Southern Missouri, .....	150 00
Middle Missouri, .....	100 00
Nebraska, .....	30 00
North-eastern Kansas, .....	50 00
North-western Iowa, Minnesota and Dakota, .....	200 00

#### Meeting-houses.—(Donations.)

Mound church, Bates Co., Mo., .....	\$200 00
Saginaw, Mich., .....	200 00
Clay County, Texas, .....	150 00
Rodney, Mich., .....	175 00
Newton, Southern Kansas, .....	100 00



Kansas Center, Southern Kansas, .....	\$200 00
Waynesville, Southern Missouri, .....	200 00
Patrick County, First District of Virginia, .....	200 00
Vermillion, North-eastern Kansas, .....	100 00

## Meeting-houses.—(Loans.)

Saginaw, Mich., .....	\$100 00
Warrensburg, Middle Missouri, .....	300 00
Vermillion, North-eastern Kansas, .....	300 00

## Summary.

State Districts assisted, .....	6
Meeting-houses provided for, .....	10
Loans to meeting-houses, .....	3
Churches organized, .....	1
Received by baptism, .....	67

## Reports of State Districts.

Northern Iowa, Minnesota and Dakota.—Received for mission work, \$255.05; expended, \$156.16; baptized, 9.

Tennessee.—Amount received and expended, \$74.58; received into church membership, 45.

Western Pennsylvania.—Received for mission work, \$43.40; expended, \$30.00.

Southern Iowa.—Received for mission work, \$24.43; expended, \$36.33.

Northern Indiana.—Received, \$275.20; expended, \$205.55; received by baptism, 11.

Nebraska.—Received, \$73.45; expended, \$64.25.

Northern Illinois.—Money received, \$537.08; expended, \$405.50.

Second District of Virginia.—Received and expended for mission work, \$100.00. The Secretary reports new fields of labor opening up in the District with favorable opportunities for doing good.

Michigan.—Received and expended, \$54.31.

Eastern Maryland.—Reports \$61.51 in the mission treasury.

Southern Indiana.—Expended in mission work, \$93.50. Held 77 meetings, baptized and reclaimed 29.

Southern District of Missouri.—Expended in mission work, \$95.00; received by baptism 11.

Middle Missouri.—Received and expended in mission work, \$347.92.

## Money Received and Expended.

April 2, 1889, Balance on hand, .....	\$ 844 67
April 2, 1890, Total receipts for mission work, .....	7,936 32

Total, .....	\$8,780 99
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## Expenditures.

April 2, 1890, Home missions, .....	\$2,004 51	
April 2, 1890, Foreign missions, .....	1,327 76	
April 2, 1890, Donations for meeting-houses, ....	1,725 00	
April 2, 1890, Loans for meeting-houses, .....	700 00	
April 2, 1890, Tract Committee for free tracts,..	250 00	
April 2, 1890, Printing reports and stationery, ..	68 94	
April 2, 1890, Postage, envelopes and postal cards, .....	40 22	
April 2, 1890, Endowment Fund expenses, .....	46 45	
April 2, 1890, Traveling expenses of Committee,	32 00	
April 2, 1890, Copying Sarah Bowman's will, ..	1 50	
April 2, 1890, Balance on hand, .....	2,584 61	
Total, .....		\$8,780 99

## Endowment Fund.

Interest-bearing Notes, .....	\$32,360 00	
Non-interest bearing Notes, .....	12,005 00	
Bequests estimated, .....	5,000 00	
Not recorded, .....	4,350 00	
Cash, .....	2,052 50	
Total, .....		\$55,767 50
Increase over last year, .....		15,440 00

## Amounts Given by States and Territories.

Illinois, .....	\$1,864 95	Colorado, .....	\$ 17 00
Ohio, .....	764 50	Michigan, .....	16 01
Pennsylvania, .....	761 35	Washington, .....	16 00
Indiana, .....	587 08	Oregon, .....	9 75
Iowa, .....	307 16	Ontario, Canada, .....	6 00
Kansas, .....	249 54	New York, .....	5 50
Maryland, .....	248 92	Arkansas, .....	4 00
Nebraska, .....	116 62	Montana, .....	3 50
Virginia, .....	113 05	Dakota, .....	2 73
California, .....	100 75	New Jersey, .....	2 00
Missouri, .....	94 90	Idaho, .....	1 50
West Virginia, .....	51 65	Children's Mission, ....	103 55
Denmark and Sweden, ..	33 50	Annual Meeting sur- plus, Harrisonburg, Va., .....	1,742 22
Texas, .....	33 00	Annual Meeting sur- plus, N. Manchester, Ind., .....	320 29
Minnesota, .....	30 35		
Kentucky, .....	25 00		
Tennessee, .....	21 75		
Florida, .....	17 90		

A review of the year's receipts shows that twenty-seven States and three foreign countries are found in the list. Illinois stands at the head of the list with nearly \$1,900 to her credit, thus contributing about one-fourth of the entire receipts. She has increased her donations over last year by \$501.32. Ohio stands next on the list



with \$764.50, and Pennsylvania reports only a few dollars less. Kansas, notwithstanding the hard times, gives more than twice as much as she gave last year. Maryland has also increased her donations by giving nearly double her former contribution. Denmark and Sweden send in \$33.50. In all the receipts show a total increase over the preceding year of \$2,349.04, or about 42 per cent.

Six years ago the present missionary plan was adopted, and since then a steady growth has been maintained as the following figures will show:

Money received, 1884-85, .....	\$ 3,806 37
Money received, 1885-86, .....	3,074 84
Money received, 1886-87, .....	3,877 29
Money received, 1887-88, .....	4,184 41
Money received, 1888-89, .....	5,587 28
Money received, 1889-90, .....	7,936 32
<hr/>	
Total, .....	\$28,466 51
Add Endowment Fund, .....	55,767 50
<hr/>	
Grand Total, .....	\$84,233 01

During these six years, under God's blessing, the following results have grown out of the labors of your Committee, and the money so liberally donated by our brethren and sisters:

Churches organized, .....	19
Meeting-houses built, .....	46
Baptized, .....	587

The entire labor in receiving, caring for and expending the money has been done without charge. No member or officer of the General Church Election and Missionary Committee has ever received a penny for services rendered. During the six years \$280.33 was paid for actual traveling expenses of the Committee in attending the thirty meetings held. From this it will be seen that out of every \$1.00 received, more than 99 cents were used in the Mission and Tract Work.

The Committee is hopeful of the future. With an abiding trust in God, and with full faith and confidence in the doctrines and principles of the Gospel, as practiced by our blessed Fraternity, we express the hope that the good work may go on with ever widening influence until the blessed Master's last injunction, "Go ye into all the world," shall be literally fulfilled by the church.

D. L. Miller,  
Treasurer.

Daniel Vaniman,  
Foreman.



We, your committee appointed to audit the books of the Treasurer of the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee, find them to be correct.

Signed, I. J. Rosenberger, S. S. Kuns, P. J. Trostle.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BRETHREN'S BOOK AND  
TRACT WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 1,  
1890.**

Cash balance on hand from last year, .....	\$ 591 64
Cash from local churches, .....	532 21
Cash from individuals, .....	248 21
Cash from Special Thanksgiving, churches and individuals, .....	128 87
Cash from Lower Stillwater Sunday-school, Ohio, .....	3 50
Cash from West Dayton Sunday-school, Ohio, .....	2 50
Cash from Salimony church, Loon Creek Sunday-school, Ind., .....	5 25
Cash from General Mission Work, Mt. Morris, Ill., .....	250 00
Cash from sales of tracts, .....	181 72
Cash from sales of Golden Gleams, .....	178 59
Cash from sales of Passover Charts, .....	21 00
Cash from sales of Bibles and Testaments, .....	67 32
Cash from sales of books, .....	305 85
Cash from interest on endowments, .....	673 03
Cash from new memberships, .....	269 00
Cash from paid endowments, .....	775 00
<hr/>	
Cash from all sources, .....	\$ 4,233 69
Add outstanding accounts, .....	398 81
Endowment Fund, .....	30,483 33
<hr/>	
Grand Total, .....	\$35,115 83

**Expense Account.**

Examining Committee, railroad and board, ....	\$ 56 00
Executive Committee, railroad and board, .....	49 47
Postage stamps, .....	84 08
Freight, .....	37 67
Sunday articles, boxes, paper, etc., .....	11 28
Books purchased, .....	445 81
Passover Charts purchased, .....	25 00
Printing bills, .....	779 37
Agents' services, including distributing tracts, .....	242 25
Brüderbote, donation to, .....	45 00
Messenger, to poor, .....	20 00
Secretary, including room rent, light, etc., ....	350 00
Foreman, .....	70 00
<hr/>	
Total expense, .....	\$ 2,215 93
Balance, .....	32,899 90
Less outstanding accounts, .....	\$ 398 81
Endowments, interest bearing, .....	16,418 33



Endowments, non-interest bearing, .....	\$14,065 00	
Endowments paid and loaned out, .....	950 00	
Total, .....		\$31,832 14
Cash balance on hand, .....		1,067 76

## Summary.

Cash balance on hand, .....	\$ 1,067 76	
Outstanding accounts, .....	398 81	
Endowment fund, .....	30,483 33	
1,020 Golden Gleams, .....	255 00	
573 books, .....	179 40	
84,200 tracts, .....	131 05	
6,230 pamphlets, .....	78 78	
Iron safe, stationery, and office fixtures, .....	60 00	
Present worth, .....		\$32,654 13
Worth last annual report, .....	25,637 43	
Increase, .....		\$ 7,016 70

## Summary of Publications.

Number of Golden Gleams on hand at last report, .....	390
Number of tracts and pamphlets on hand at last report, .....	71,050
Number of Bibles and books on hand at last report, .....	540
Number of Bibles and books purchased this year, .....	654
Number of tracts and pamphlets published this year, .....	241,000
Total number, .....	313,634

## Number of Publications Sold and Distributed During the Year.

Bibles, Books and Gleams, .....	991
Tracts of all kinds, .....	220,620
Total number for the year, .....	221,611
Number sent out last year, .....	121,148
Increase, .....	100,463

Dayton, Ohio.

Samuel Bock,  
Sec. and Treas.

We, the committee appointed to audit the Fifth Annual Report of the Brethren's Book and Tract Work, ending May 1, 1890, after a careful examination of the same, find it strictly correct.

Signed, L. W. Teeter, D. M. Irwin, John H. Moore,

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Report of Committee on Church Property, see page 5 of Minutes of 1889, was accepted, and the Committee was instructed



to correct their papers by using the name German Baptist Brethren church instead of German Baptist or Brethren church.

The Book and Tract Committee made a report of their work in securing necessary legislation for incorporation, and on motion were introduced to fully complete act of incorporation.

Applications were presented for Annual Meeting for 1891 from Maryland, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Illinois and Missouri, and it was decided to hold the next Annual Meeting, the Lord willing, with the Brethren in the Western District of Maryland.

The Annual Meeting Treasurer was instructed to pay only such accounts as are signed by the Moderator and Writing Clerk of Annual Meeting.

The Writing Clerk was instructed to pay the Danish delegate's expenses out of the Minutes' surplus fund, and turn balance over to the General Mission Fund.

On motion the Writing Clerk was instructed to correct the phraseology of the queries from Denmark.

Brethren David Filbrun and Wm. Barnhart were appointed on the Book and Tract Work in place of the members whose term of office expires.

I. D. Parker was appointed on the Examining Committee.

Committee to report plan for consolidation of General Mission Work and Book and Tract Work: E. Eby, Kansas; James Sell, Pennsylvania; W. R. Deeter, Indiana; D. E. Price, Illinois; Daniel Hays, Virginia.

A. Hutchison was appointed on the Advisory Committee.

D. L. Miller was appointed on the General Missionary Board.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES TO CHURCHES.**

Welsh Run (Pa.), church, E. W. Stoner, J. F. Oller, D. F. Stouffer.

Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey, J. G. Royer, S. R. Zug, J. F. Oller.

George's Creek (Pa.), church, C. G. Lint, L. H. Dickey, Wm. Howe, R. H. Miller (or alternate), D. B. Arnold.

Elk Lick (Pa.), church, John S. Holsinger, H. Musselman, D. D. Horner.

McPherson, Kans., E. Eby, D. E. Price, Jacob Witmore, D. L. Miller, Geo. W. Cripe.

Lower Stillwater church, Ohio, Jacob Rife, I. D. Parker, L. W. Teeter.



### COLLEGE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

McPherson, E. Eby, John Forney, Jacob Trostle.

Mt. Morris, Geo. Zollars, Edmund Forney, David Eby.

Huntingdon, Jas. A. Sell, J. W. Brumbaugh, J. S. Holsinger.

Bridgewater, Daniel Hays, Isaac Long, Daniel Miller.

#### Resolutions.

Resolved, that this Meeting hereby tender its thanks,

1. To the various committees for their efforts to secure the comfort of our members in attendance.

2. To the citizens of Warrensburgh and vicinity for their hospitality and kindness.

3. To the various denominations of this city for the use of their churches.

4. To the various Railroad Companies favoring our Brethren with half-fare tickets.

#### Standing Committee of 1890.

S. S. Barklow,

J. S. Flory,

B. B. Whitmer,

John Forney,

E. Eby,

David Bechtelheimer,

S. H. Miller,

J. S. Snyder,

Hiram Berkman,

W. B. Sell,

A. Hutchison,

C. Holdeman,

Geo. W. Cripe,

S. Bucklew,

D. E. Price,

Daniel Chambers,

Christian Hope.

W. R. Deeter,

David Neff,

L. T. Holsinger,

John Smith,

S. Driver,

I. D. Parker,

Hiram Musselman,

Wm. Howe,

C. Bucher,

David Long,

Uriah Bixler,

John B. Naff,

Jonas Graybill,

Daniel Hays,

Aaron Fike,

J. B. Bowman,

John Wise,

Reading Clerk.

J. G. Royer,

Writing Clerk.

Enoch Eby,

Moderator.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1891.

Hagerstown, Md.

The Standing Committee organized by electing Daniel Vaniman, of Kansas, Moderator; M. J. McClure, of Illinois, Reading Clerk, and D. L. Miller, of Illinois, Writing Clerk.

The General Council was opened at 9 A. M., Tuesday, June 2, by the usual devotional exercises.

1. The rules adopted at last Annual Meeting were then read, and the Moderator announced that the Meeting would be conducted according to these rules.

2. The Hymn Book Committee appointed at last Annual Meeting made the following report, which was accepted and ordered to be placed on the minutes:

In the year 1888 there was a petition sent to the Annual Meeting asking for a revision of our Hymn Book and Hymnal. This petition was deferred until the Annual Meeting of 1890, when it was again taken up and submitted to us, with instructions to report at the meeting of 1891.

Having carefully and prayerfully considered the work entrusted to us, we now beg to submit the following report:

(1) We do not see the way clear for either diminishing the size of, or improving the character, of our Hymn Book and Hymnal sufficiently to answer the various wants of our growing Brotherhood.

(2) We therefore recommend that the Brotherhood have prepared and published another book, to be known as "The Brethren's Song Book."

(3) This book to contain, not to exceed, 500 hymns, about 300 of which are to be selected from our present Hymn Book, and the remainder from other sources.

(4) The sentiment of the hymns to be in harmony with our faith and practice and suited to the wants of the Brotherhood for public worship, Sunday-schools, council meetings, revival work, missionary fields and family worship.

(5) The arrangement of the hymns to be miscellaneous throughout the book, and numbered consecutively from first to last. Hymns from our present book to also have old number printed in brackets.



(6) The first one hundred and fifty hymns, or thereabouts, to be selected, especially for use in the missionary, revival and Sunday-school work, so that the plates may be used in printing a small book for use on the mission fields and in Sunday-schools, if so desired. This book is to be known as the Brethren Song Book, Part 1.

(7) The book is to be printed in character notes, but no duplicate of tunes to be used.

(8) Several hymns may be arranged under one tune, provided they are on either the page with the music, or on the one facing it.

(9) The book to contain also the rudiments of music sufficient for good practical use in learning to sing.

(10) The work to be printed with and also without music. The book without music to have the same size page and type as the Brethren Hymn Book, to contain good paper and to be substantially bound in arabesque and morocco, plain.

(11) The book with music to have the same size and shape page as the Brethren's Hymnal, to contain good paper and to be substantially bound in board, half leather and morocco.

(12) The Annual Meeting shall appoint a competent brother to superintend the compilation of said book, with four other well qualified brethren residing in different parts of the Brotherhood to assist in the compilation.

(13) The Meeting shall also appoint a competent brother, well versed in the science of music, to superintend the selection and arranging of the music with four other well qualified brethren residing in different parts of the Brotherhood to assist him in this part of the work.

(14) To aid them in their work the compilers of the hymns are to call through the Messenger for each member who feels an interest in the work to send a list of such hymns as they desire to have in the new book.

(15) To aid them in selecting music well suited to all parts of the Brotherhood, the compilers of the music are to also make a similar call for selections of tunes for the new book.

(16) The book without music is to contain two indexes: (a) A general index, giving the first line of each hymn alphabetically arranged. (b) The subject Index, giving the first line of each hymn arranged under subjects, such as Opening Hymns, Closing Hymns, Sunday-school Hymns, Missionary Hymns, Funeral Hymns, etc.



(17) The book, with music, is to contain the same index, with an addition of an index of the music.

(18) When completed, the books are to be published by the Brethren's Publishing Co., who are to pay all expenses for compilation and copyright.

In view of the importance of the work we ask that this Report be spread upon the Minutes as deferred matter until the Annual Meeting of 1892.

J. H. Moore,  
H. B. Brumbaugh,  
S. F. Sanger,  
L. H. Dickey,  
J. Amick.

3. The Majority Report on the Divorce Question, deferred by last Annual Meeting, was then taken up, and after discussion failed to pass. The Minority Report, after being discussed, also failed to pass the Meeting, and the question stands indefinitely deferred.

4. The following Report of the Committee to Report a Plan to Consolidate the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee and the Book and Tract Work was accepted and ordered to be placed on the Minutes:

Hagerstown, Md., May 27, 1891.

"We, the undersigned Committee, appointed by Annual Meeting of 1890 to present a plan for the Consolidation of the General Church Erection and Missionary Work, and the Book and Tract Work, respectfully submit the following:

(1) That Standing Committee shall nominate and Annual Meeting approve and perpetuate a Committee of 'five members as Trustees,' living sufficiently near each other for frequent consultation, to serve for a term of three years, except those first appointed, one of whom shall serve one year, two two years, and two three years. Said Committee shall be called the General Missionary and Tract Committee of the German Baptist Brethren Church, and shall be the successor of both the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee and the Book and Track Work, to hold in trust, manage, control and use all the property rights and interests now vested in both the above-named organizations for the promotion of the objects for which they were designed.

(2) The Committee shall meet as often as necessary to carry on its work successfully and shall elect its own officers, make its own By-Laws, fill all vacancies that may incidentally occur in the Committee, inform Standing Committee each year whose term has



expired and recommend to General Conference for adoption anything necessary to forward its work.

(3) The object of this Committee shall be to send suitable Brethren to preach the Gospel and to assist in building plain houses of worship, publishing and distributing printed matter, to organize and build up Churches, and, when suitable arrangements can be made and wisdom dictates, to own and control all the publishing interests of the Church.

(4) Any Church situated in a State district, in order to get help from the general Committee, must first circulate a subscription among themselves and raise all they can, and then apply to the District Committee for help. If the District Committee is unable to supply the deficiency, help may be obtained from the general Committee, either as a loan, donation or both, if need be, upon approval and recommendation of the District Committee.

(5) The General Committee shall quarterly or oftener circulate throughout the Brotherhood a printed report explanatory of the nature and progress of its work, and shall annually submit a report of all its work to the General Conference for approval, and the Standing Committee shall annually inspect the report of the General Committee before it is submitted to the General Conference, and shall assist the Committee in developing any necessary improvements for advancing the work.

(6) The funds for this work shall consist of bequests, endowments, free-will offerings and money received as life interests, and from the sale of publications.

(7) We recommend that each member give for the Mission and Tract Work of the Church as the Lord has prospered him, upon the principle taught in 1 Cor. 16: 8.

(8) Let each Congregation throughout the Brotherhood appoint solicitors to solicit each member annually and receive their offerings, and forward same to the General Committee, who shall receipt for the amount, and upon application shall annually forward tracts to such congregation to the value of ten per cent. of the sum sent.

(9) Any person paying or obligating him or herself to pay twenty or more dollars, as a life membership, as an endowment of the work or otherwise, shall be entitled to draw publications annually to the value of one dollar for each twenty dollars so contributed.

(10) The Standing Committee shall nominate and Annual Meeting confirm a committee of five faithful and well informed



brethren, whose duty it will be to examine and approve of all matters to be published and distributed as tracts.

(11) All former decisions touching the general Church Erection and Missionary Work or the Book and Tract Work in any way conflicting with this arrangement, shall upon the adoption of this report become null and void.

(12) Owing to the importance of the work and the interests involved, we recommend that this plan be placed on the Minutes and deferred for two years.

Signed by the committee,

Daniel Vaniman,  
D. L. Miller,  
S. W. Hoover,  
Samuel Bock,  
Enoch Eby,  
D. E. Price,  
Daniel Hays."

5. Report of the Committee on New Testament, with notes. Report accepted and adopted.

The Committee appointed by Annual Meeting of 1890 to consider the nature and cost of publishing the New Testament with Notes, would respectfully report as follows:

The Committee was appointed in pursuance of the following action of Annual Meeting:

"As the notes to the New Testament, published by the American Tract Society, and recommended by our Brethren, are evasive and misleading in many things (see note on Matt. 28: 19; Jno. 3: 5; James 5: 14, and for evasions see Acts 8: 38, 39; 9: 18, 19 and 16: 32-34, and many more), will District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to appoint a Committee of Brethren to prepare a correct work, in harmony with the Gospel and Practice of the Brotherhood, to fill the important want of such a book in our Sabbath Schools, instead of the misleading ones now in use?"

"Answer: Deferred one year and submitted to a committee of three for thorough investigation as to nature and cost of the proposed work."

In obedience to the action of Annual Meeting in appointing the Committee by which the investigation was to be made, after careful investigation, we conclude as follows:

(1) We recommend the publishing of such a work, considering its nature, the demand for it and the reasonable cost of its publication.



(2) We wish to inform Annual Meeting that one of the members of the Committee (L. W. Teeter) is preparing Notes on the New Testament for use by our Brethren, and will probably have it ready for publication within one year.

(3) We further recommend that two Brethren be appointed to assist Brother Teeter in the examination of the work.

J. H. Moore, Daniel Hays,  
L. W. Teeter, Committee.

6. "Inasmuch as we, the members composing the District of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, much desire, and, in fact, should be represented each year by at least one delegate on Standing Committee, that we may all be of one mind and all speak the same thing, and we, as a district, being in such limited circumstances that we may not be able for many years, if ever, to be represented in Annual Meeting by delegate unless the general Brotherhood will help us bear our burden; therefore we petition District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting through Standing Committee to hear this, our second petition, and make some arrangement by which we may be able to be represented each year by delegate.

We recommend that one-half the expenses of the delegate from Oregon be paid by the Annual Meeting Treasurer from funds collected according to plan adopted by Annual Meeting."

7. Would it not be well to dispense with our extra (private) council at our Church Council Meetings?

Answer: No.

Passed Annual Meeting.

8. We, the undersigned, having purchased suitable school buildings at Lordsburg, Cal., and being desirous to start a Brethren's school, hereby petition Annual Meeting of 1891 for permission to establish such school in harmony with the usages of the Brotherhood and request that three elders be appointed to assist us in watching over the moral and religious influence of said school in accordance with Art. 14, of minutes of Annual Meeting of 1890.

Daniel Houser, President; S. A. Overholtzer, Treasurer; T. J. Nair, Secretary; Daniel Kuns, Henry Kuns.

Petition granted by Annual Meeting.

9. Russell Church asks District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting of 1891 to devise some plan to restrict Elders from going into adjoining districts and organizing churches without the consent or knowledge of Elders in said district. Something like the



plan of ordaining Elders in minutes of Annual Meeting, page 5, last article and section 1, page 114 in full report.

Answer: No Elder shall go into adjoining districts to organize a church without the consent of adjoining Elders.

10. We, the Olathe Church, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to decide that Elders or others who go into churches to adjust difficulties; and will visit one of the implicated parties, and hear one side of the case before it comes properly before them, that, so doing shall disqualify such Elders or others to act on the pending case.

Petition granted by Annual Meeting.

11. The District Meeting of eastern Pennsylvania to Annual Meeting, Greeting:

Inasmuch as several queries were presented to this District Meeting in reference to German hymn books;

Therefore, this District earnestly petitions Annual Meeting to appoint a committee of three to compile a German hymn book;

And, we further petition Annual Meeting to select two of said committee from the German Churches of Pennsylvania;

And, we also ask that said committee shall have special respect to the Brethren's, and the book known as the Lancaster Hymn Books, when making selections.

Petition granted by Annual Meeting.

12. Four papers were presented in reference to the Church name. On motion a committee of five were appointed to take charge of the papers and form an answer and present it to this meeting. The following report was submitted and passed:

After carefully considering the papers placed in our hands we recommend that our name always be printed and written as heretofore, "German Baptist Brethren."

J. H. Moore,  
B. F. Moomaw,  
Jesse Stutzman,  
H. E. Light,  
A. Hutchison.

13. We, the Salem Congregation, assembled in council, request District Meeting of Oregon to ask Annual Meeting of 1891 to so change or modify Art. 15 of Annual Meeting of 1872, that a deposed ministering brother, as therein described, may be restored to his ministerial office upon his rendering all the satisfaction in



his power, and he is not to be held back by a small minority, for as it now stands, important decisions may rest in the hands of a very small minority.

Answer: We decide to make no change in the decision of the Annual Meeting referred to.

13½. The southern district of Kansas requests Annual Meeting of 1891 to reconsider Article 14 of 1890 and change so as to define the time each brother shall serve.

Answer: The committee shall serve three years from this date, except those now in office, who shall serve one for one year, one for two years, and one for three years. The Standing Committee shall determine the time each shall serve.

14. As Annual Meeting and District Meeting are silent on the subject of ordaining and installing the wives of officials, will this District Meeting say by what authority they are installed into office with their husbands?

Answer: We do not ordain or install sisters into office, but receive them as helpmeets to their husbands.

15. Sugar Creek Church petitions Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to say if the Scripture referred to in minutes of Annual Meeting, Art. 1, 1861 (1 Cor. 14: 27-40), shall be so construed as to prohibit sisters leading or rising to speak at our social meetings.

Answer: No. Passed Annual Meeting.

16. We, the Brethren of the Rock Creek Church, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting for the following:

There is neither Greek nor Jew; there is neither bond nor free; there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3: 28. Therefore, should not the sisters break the bread and pass the cup the same as the brethren do? Answer: We call for a reconsideration of Query 7, 1879, and ask Annual Meeting to decide that the sisters may enjoy the same privilege as the brethren in the breaking of the bread and the passing of the cup."

On motion this query was ordered to be placed on the Minutes and deferred for one year.

17. Will District Meeting, of middle Indiana, ask Annual Meeting to (1st) require the clerks of the several State districts to furnish the writing clerk of Annual Meeting a copy of the minutes of District Meeting, with queries marked intended for An-



nual Meeting? (2d) Said District Meeting minutes shall be sent to writing clerk of Annual Meeting at least two weeks before Annual Meeting. (3d) Requiring the writing clerk of Annual Meeting to furnish a printed list of all the queries for the use of the delegates representing the several Churches.

Answer: We do so require. Passed Annual Meeting.

18. Inasmuch as the decision of Annual Meeting of 1877, Art. 14, respecting the use or non-use of musical instruments, leaves it optional with Churches in which there is a union of sentiment upon this subject, thereby causing difficulty in churches, will not this District Meeting petition Annual Meeting to frame a decision whereby all local churches will be alike restricted or alike permitted in the possession and use of them?

Answer: We do not see a way to a more direct answer to the above question than we already have on the minutes. Passed.

19. Will District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to give scriptural authority for Ministers who are not Ordained Elders to anoint the sick?

Answer: The query was ordered to be placed in the hands of a Committee of three Brethren, who shall report to next Annual Meeting.

19½. The Spring Run Church petitions Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to say whether it is right for members to wear gold spectacles.

Answer: Inasmuch as the wearing of gold is forbidden in the Gospel, 1 Tim. 2: 9; 1 Pet. 3: 3, we decide that wearing gold in any way that has an appearance of violating the Gospel shall not be allowed.

20. We petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, that one-third of the net proceeds of Annual Meeting be paid to the Brethren's Book and Tract Work.

Answer: We grant the petition asked for, thus changing the former decision of Annual Meeting on the disbursement of the surplus funds.

21. Will this District Meeting petition Annual Meeting to recognize the Bible as the only safe form of government for the Church, and that the minutes of Annual Meeting be regarded as advisory only, and not mandatory?

Answer: We decide that Art. 4, 1883, settles this question as the best we can do.



22. Is it right, according to Gospel principles and decision of Annual Meeting of 1857, Article 30, for a Brother to hold the office of township trustee? If not right, what should be done with a local Church allowing the same?

Answer: We decide that Brethren should not ask or electioneer for civil office, or attend nominating conventions, but if they are elected without such efforts and the office is imposed upon them, they may, with the consent of their respective churches, serve, when so doing will not compromise any Gospel principles; and, further, we strongly advise Brethren to keep out of politics altogether.

23. Is it according to the Gospel and the practice of the Church for a brother to go to law with unbelievers, in any case, to compel the payment of money, and how far may a Brother go in that direction? Is it right according to 1 Cor. 6: 1-7 for Brothers to go to law with unbelievers, in any case, before a worldly judgment seat? If not right, what shall we do with members who will do so?

Answer: No member is allowed to go to law without first consulting and obtaining the consent of the Church.

24. May our Brethren rent out our meeting-houses to other religious assemblies (not of the Brethren) or to the "Good Temperance" for use? Please give us the Scripture with your answer to question so far possible.

Answer: We cannot rent our meeting houses to any who do not bring the doctrine of the Gospel as understood by our Brotherhood. 2 John 10, 11.

25. Is it allowable for members in the Church to marry a so-called believing person not member of the Brethren Church? Is it allowable for members in the Church to marry an altogether ungodly person (with the exception that the betrothal is not made) before he or she (the member of the Church) was a member in the Church? If not allowable, what shall we do with members who will do that?

Answer: The practice of the Brethren in America is to allow members to marry others than members of the Church; but we advise members against marrying unbelievers.

26. We recommend that the General Missionary Committee be authorized to employ one or more General traveling Secretaries, whose duty it shall be to preach Missionary sermons, solicit bequests, endowments and donations; and to perform such other duties as may be assigned him by the General Committee.



27. Whereas the Annual Meeting has decided that no Brother shall serve on the Standing Committee or fill an office with more than two years out of four, this Standing committee unanimously decides that the term of service shall be counted from the time the brother begins to serve.

### REPORTS.

#### 1. Minute Account for 1890.

Expenses for 20,000 copies (printing, postage, mailing, etc.), .....	\$299 20
18,444 copies at two cents, .....	\$368 88
Cash, .....	348 72
Outstanding Accounts, .....	20 16
<hr/>	
Surplus cash on hand, .....	\$119 52
Outstanding Accounts, .....	20 16
<hr/>	
Total surplus, .....	\$139 68

J. G. Royer,

Writing Clerk Annual Meeting for 1890.

On motion the Surplus was ordered to be paid to the General Treasurer of the Annual Meeting.

#### 2. Report of Committee on Church Property.

In pursuance of the instruction of Annual Meeting of 1890, see Minutes, page 15, as follows:

"The Committee was instructed to correct their papers by using the name German Baptist Brethren Church, instead of German Baptist or Brethren Church," the Committee offers the following resolution for adoption:

At the General Conference of the German Baptist Brethren Church, held at Hagerstown, Md., on the 4th day of June, 1891, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That there is an error in the name of the Trustees of the General Conference of the German Baptist Brethren Church, as incorporated under the provisions of sections 1998 and 1999 of Revised Statutes of Wisconsin, of 1878,

That the certificate of authorization and articles of incorporation containing said error were duly filed in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Wisconsin, on August 9, 1889, in Vol. 4, Wisconsin Record, pp. 318-320,

That said corporate name of Trustees be hereby corrected in the aforesaid certificate of authorization of Articles of Incorporation, by striking out the word "or," wherever the same occurs



therein, between the words "Baptist" and "Brethren," leaving "Trustees of the General Conference of the German Baptist Brethren Church," as their corporate name.

State of Maryland,                    }  
County of Washington.        } ss.

We, the undersigned, Moderator and Secretary of the General Conference of the German Baptist Brethren Church, do hereby certify that the foregoing amendment to the Certificate of Authority and Article of Incorporation was duly and unanimously adopted at the said conference, by an affirmative vote thereof. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands this 4th day of June, 1891.

Daniel Vaniman, Moderator; D. L. Miller, Secretary.

**Report of the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee  
to the Annual Meeting Held at Hagerstown, Maryland,  
June 2 to 5, 1891.**

The General Church Erection and Missionary Committee submits the following report of the work which, under the blessing of God, they have been enabled to carry on during the year ending with April 7, 1891.

**FOREIGN MISSIONS.**

Our brethren in the foreign field have labored zealously and not in vain. During the year 726 sermons were preached and nineteen were added to the Church. The Churches have two Elders, four Ministers in the second degree, three in the first, eight deacons, and a total membership of 139. The congregations are as follows:

Denmark.—In Hjörning and Sindal there are fifty-two members, one being an elder; one a minister in the second degree, two in the first, and three deacons. Seventy-two sermons were preached; three were baptized, and two expelled. In Hordum there are twenty-two members. Within the year one emigrated to America, one died, and one left the Church. They have one minister, Christian Hansen, in the second degree, who held 262 meetings during the year, and two deacons.

Sweden.—The Church in Sweden and the congregation in Copenhagen, Denmark, are under the care of Elder John Olsson, Wanneberga, Winslof, Sweden. The two congregations have a membership of sixty-five; their officers consist in one elder, two ministers in the second degree, one in the first, and three deacons. During the year 492 meetings were held, 319 of which were



held by the elder. Sixteen were received by baptism and five expelled.

**Home Mission Work by the General Missionary Committee.**

Texas.—This is one of our oldest mission points and is becoming well established. Four organized churches are in the State and located in the following counties: Nocona congregation in Montague, William's Creek in Cook, Live Oak in Parker, and Pleasant Valley in Clay. Besides these the brethren are maintaining at least six regular mission stations. In the State alone there are 95 members, and including those living in Cimarron Valley and Owen's Prairie churches in Indian Territory, the total is 143. During the year 13 were received by baptism, 22 by letter, 4 moved away, and 2 were disowned. They have 2 elders, 5 ministers in the first and second degrees, and 10 deacons. That the members appreciate the blessing of having the Gospel sent to them may be seen in the fact that this year they contributed to the General Mission Fund at the average rate of 65 cents per member.

At the last meeting of the Southern District of Kansas, Texas and the southern part of Indian Territory were set off into a district to themselves. They will now organize and appoint a district missionary committee, through which the General Committee can act; and as local committees can work to a better advantage, we now bespeak a still brighter future for the State.

Idaho and Washington.—Elder Sidney Hodgden and wife have been laboring in this field since last fall. Brother Hodgden reports that the church at Moscow is now in good working order, and the outlook for an ingathering is encouraging. Four were received by letter. Their membership numbers 38, 2 of which are ministers and 3 deacons. Several points in Washington are continued as mission stations.

Louisiana.—Bro. Suter, of Esterly, having made a liberal offer to help establish the work there, the committee accepted his proposition and located Elder S. A. Honberger at that point. Upon his arrival last February, Bro. Honberger began a series of meetings, the immediate results of which were 4 applicants for baptism. There are now 17 members living at this place.

Kentucky.—Is still in Elder I. J. Rosenberger's charge. In June, 1890, he held about 15 meetings near Hodgdenville and baptized 7. In October, in company with his wife and Bro. Geo. W. Myers and wife, he returned, held 25 meetings and 1 lovefeast, and baptized 6 more. The outlook is bright; yet the great need is a resident minister.



Canada.—In the first part of last year Elder John W. Metzger spent about four weeks laboring among the brethren in this field, holding 13 meetings and baptizing 1. Later, Elder I. J. Rosenberger, assisted by Elders Jesse Stutzman and J. W. Metzger, preached a number of sermons, held two communion meetings and baptized 2. Here, too, a minister is greatly needed.

Among the Scandinavians in Western part of the United States.—Brother Hope continued his work in Nebraska and Colorado as he had begun it last year. On account of the famine, not so much was accomplished; yet many received the Word with gladness.

The totals are not given, because the minutes of all the District Meetings were not received, or the published reports of the District Missionary Committees were not sufficiently complete. The General Committee believes that such tabular information will be of value in showing the progress of the work at home, and urges that each District Committee report at the close of each year to its District Meeting, and to the secretary of the General Committee, at least the necessary information for the above table.

#### Assistance to State Districts.

Second District of Virginia, .....	\$100 00
Northwestern Kansas and Colorado, .....	250 00
Eastern Pennsylvania, .....	50 00
Middle Iowa, .....	150 00
Oregon, .....	500 00
District of California, .....	50 00
Middle Missouri, .....	150 00
Northern Iowa, .....	25 00
Nebraska, .....	360 00
Tennessee, .....	150 00

#### Meeting Houses.—Donations.

Chicago, Illinois, .....	\$500 00
Cedar Creek, Southern Kansas, .....	100 00
Ashe Co., North Carolina, .....	125 00
New Brunswick, Southern Indiana, .....	200 00
Wicklowl, West Virginia, .....	75 00
Northwest Iowa, .....	100 00

#### Meeting Houses.—Loans.

Cedar Creek, Southern Kansas, .....	\$300 00
Knox Co., Tennessee, .....	100 00

#### Summary.

State Districts assisted, .....	10
Meeting Houses provided for, .....	7
Loans to Meeting Houses, .....	2
Members received by baptism, .....	52

#### Money Received and Expended.

April 8, 1890, Balance on Hand, .....	\$ 2,584 61
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# Home Mission Work by District Committees.

Districts.	On hand at beginning of year.	Donated by general board.	Raised in the district.	Paid.	Number meetings held.	No. baptized.	No. mission points.	
California, . . . . .	\$ 44 70	\$ 50	\$ 96 61	\$ 76 60	..	..	3	P. J. Baltimore, Treas.
Oregon and Idaho, . . . . .	149 24	200	27 40	196 90	..	..	..	L. W. Fitzwater, Sec.
Nebraska, . . . . .	..	360	..	458 48	..	..	..	J. H. Bosserman, Treas.
N. W. Kans., & Colo., . . . . .	71 61	250	186 11	221 21	114	12	..	..
Southern Kansas, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Northeastern Kansas, . . . . .	80 64	..	50 01	16 85	..	..	..	..
Northern Missouri, . . . . .	..	150	219 34	240 30	..	28	5	..
Middle Missouri, . . . . .	..	200	261 85	378 22	..	11	8	S. Wine, Treas.
Southern Missouri, . . . . .	98 89	..	147 68	192 45	..	11	..	S. S. Blough, Treas.
N. Iowa & Minnesota, . . . . .	..	150	175 05	144 38	93	12	4	U. B. Lehman, Treas.
Middle Iowa, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Southern Iowa, . . . . .	131 57	..	388 82	455 57	..	8	..	C. Rowland, Sec.
Northern Illinois, . . . . .	108 09	..	406 51	466 67	242	14	5	G. W. Gibson, Sec.
Southern Illinois, . . . . .	69 65	..	249 55	204 50	..	1	5	D. Whitehead, Treas.
Northern Indiana, . . . . .	12 27	..	233 41	181 40	20	2	..	W. S. Toney, Sec.
Middle Indiana, . . . . .	..	..	213 19	144 34	..	..	..	L. J. Hooke, Treas.
Southern Indiana, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Northwestern Ohio, . . . . .	4 03	..	82 96	94 90	..	..	..	J. Mishler, Sec.
Northeastern Ohio, . . . . .	82 12	..	218 53	165 24	..	..	8	..
Southern Ohio, . . . . .	54 31	..	28 75	25 25	..	..	5	..
Michigan, . . . . .	92 37	..	54 00	43 00	..	..	..	W. J. Bowser, Treas.
Western Pennsylvania, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Middle Pennsylvania, . . . . .	281 42	50	268 51	404 25	..	..	5	Geo. Bucher, Treas.
Eastern Pennsylvania, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Western Maryland, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eastern Maryland, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1st West Virginia, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2d West Virginia, . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1st Virginia, . . . . .	..	200	158 47	234 20	..	..	..	W. H. Shafer, Treas.
2d Virginia, . . . . .	..	100	..	..	..	24	..	S. L. Shaver, Treas.
Tennessee, . . . . .	100 33	150	107 51	..	..	..	..	J. B. Bowman, Treas.



July 1, 1890, Received from Secretary Mission Board, .....	\$ 1,480 05
October 7, 1890, Received from Secretary Mission Board, ..	1,328 72
January 6, 1891, Received from Secretary Mission Board, ..	1,907 40
April 7, 1891, Received from Secretary Mission Board, ....	2,911 52
	<hr/>
	\$10,212 30

### Expenditures.

April 7, Home Mission Work, .....	\$ 1,205 65
April 7, Foreign Mission Work, .....	2,432 35
April 7, Donation for Building Meeting House, .....	1,100 00
April 7, Loans for Building Meeting House, .....	400 00
April 7, Assistance to State Districts, .....	1,785 00
April 7, Real Estate, .....	786 00
April 7, Transferred to Endowment Fund, .....	477 50
April 7, Galen B. Royer, Secretary, .....	150 00
April 7, Printing Reports and Circulars, .....	44 95
April 7, Stationery and Stamps, .....	37 85
April 7, Traveling Expenses of Committee, .....	28 99
April 7, Taxes on Real Estate, .....	15 14
April 7, Loan, .....	1,000 00
Balance on Hand, .....	748 89
	<hr/>
Total, .....	\$10,212 30

### Endowment Fund.

Interest-Bearing Notes, .....	\$32,790
Non-interest-Bearing Notes, .....	14,285
Bequests Estimated, .....	10,000
Cash, .....	5,125
	<hr/>
Total, .....	\$62,200

### Amount Given by States and Territories.

Illinois, .....	\$1,626 63	Tennessee, .....	\$ 18 45
Ohio, .....	811 01	Michigan, .....	15 25
Pennsylvania, .....	679 48	Washington, .....	14 25
Minnesota, .....	525 00	Oregon, .....	12 80
Indiana, .....	493 30	Idaho, .....	6 00
Iowa, .....	260 43	Wisconsin, .....	5 50
Kansas, .....	216 51	Ontario, Canada, .....	5 00
Missouri, .....	185 76	New Jersey, .....	3 00
Maryland, .....	154 75	Utah, .....	3 00
California, .....	127 10	North Dakota, .....	2 00
Virginia, .....	77 60	Colorado, .....	75
Texas, .....	61 87	Arkansas, .....	25
Nebraska, .....	28 84	Children's Mission, ....	110 00
Florida, .....	27 62	Estates, .....	758 50
Kentucky, .....	27 50	Surplus of A. M. 1890, ..	138 60
West Virginia, .....	27 15	Sundry, .....	507 35
Denmark and Sweden, ..	21 44		
	<hr/>		
Total, .....			\$7,052 69



Amount of loans, etc., .....\$ 575 00

Total cash received, .....\$7,627 69

Surplus of Annual Meeting Minutes of 1889 re-  
ceived too late for above report, .....\$ 32 45

After making due allowance for irregular contributions in both years, the receipts this year stand about the same as last year. The famine in the West called forth from the brethren and friends a fund of \$14,404.19, which passed through the hands of the committee appointed by Northern District of Illinois, besides what was sent through other channels. This and the general shortage in crops, we believe, is the reason there is no great increase in contributions this year.

But the Relief Fund, if properly followed, will do effectual missionary work. There is another point to which attention is called. If last year, with short crops, the Brotherhood could raise over \$7,000 for the General Mission Fund, and about \$15,000 for relieving the sufferers, can we not this year, if the promise of abundance continues, raise \$22,000 towards the spreading of the Gospel?

Again, the Brotherhood on the average contributed for this year 11 2-3c. per member. According to the late census Minnesota, California, Texas, Florida, Kentucky and Washington are the only States which come up to, or go beyond, the amount, one cent a week per member, recommended by Annual Conference.

Of these California, Texas and Florida are on the frontier, have organized Churches to keep up, and much home work to do.

Yet, in all these observations the Committee sees an encouraging growth in sentiment in favor of the mission work; and, trusting in God and his Word, they are hopeful that the little leaven now working will continue to work until all nations will have heard the "glad tidings of great joy."

Daniel Vaniman, Foreman; D. L. Miller, Treasurer; Galen B. Royer, Secretary.

We, your Committee appointed to audit the books of the Treasurer and the Secretary of the General Church Election and Missionary Committee, find them to be correct.

Signed: I. J. Rosenberger, Levi Mohler, J. S. Kuns.

**"Brethren's Book and Tract Work." 6th Annual Report,  
Ending May 1, 1891.**

Cash balance on hand from last year, .....\$ 1,067 76

Cash contributed by local Churches, ..... 516 76

Cash contributed by individuals, ..... 311 48



Cash collection, Tabernacle, Pertle Springs, ..\$	74	89
Cash from sales of tracts, .....	135	86
Cash from sales of Gol. Gl'ms and P. O. charts, .....	94	09
Cash from sales of bibles and books, .....	547	82
Cash from interest on endowments, .....	930	29
Cash from new memberships, .....	108	90
Cash from paid endowments, .....	812	20
Cash from paid loans, .....	520	00
<hr/>		
Cash from all sources, .....	\$ 5,120	05
Outstanding accounts, .....	421	57
Endowment fund, .....	45,412	43
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Grand total, .....	\$50,954	05

### Expense Account.

Examining Committee, R. R. fare and board, ..\$	55	75
Executive Committee, R. R. fare and board, ...	53	85
Attorneys' fees, etc., for legislation and incor- poration, .....	77	20
Stamps and transportation charges, .....	169	92
Sund. articles, boxes, paper, cording, stove, let- ter pr's, etc., .....	46	96
Bibles and books purchased, .....	744	05
Printing, .....	656	58
Agt's services, and exp's solicitg. and distrib. tracts, etc., .....	866	63
Secretary, including room rent, fuel, light, etc.,	400	00
Foreman, .....	100	00
<hr/>		
Balance, .....	\$47,783	41
Amt. carried forward, .....	\$47,783	11
Less outstanding accounts, .....	421	57
Endowments—interest bearing, .....	30,367	43
Endowments—non-interest bearing, .....	15,045	00
Endowments paid and loaned out, .....	1,440	00
<hr/>		
Cash balance on hand, .....	\$ 509	11

### Summary.

Cash balance on hand, .....	\$ 509	11
Outstanding accounts, .....	421	57
Endowment fund, .....	45,412	43
823 Gol. Gleams and Passover charts, .....	206	25
639 Bibles and books, .....	324	56
79,000 Tracts, .....	101	00
9,000 Pamphlets, .....	84	00
Iron safe, stationery and office fixtures, .....	80	00
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Present worth, .....	\$47,138	92
Worth last year, .....	32,654	13
<hr/>		
Increase, .....	\$14,484	79



**Number of Publications Sold and Distributed During the Year.**

Bible, books and Gleams, .....	808
Tracts—all kinds, .....	222,700

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Total number for the year, .....223,508

SAMUEL BOCK, Secretary and Treasurer,  
Dayton, Ohio.

Explanation.—The sum of contributions from all sources is nearly the same as last year. The largest portion donated by the local churches is from the States of Illinois and Ohio. The remaining portion from Pennsylvania, Indiana, Iowa, Virginia, Kansas, California, Missouri and Maryland, and in the order named. The churches in a number of the States have omitted to record themselves in this list the past year. The sales show a small increase.

The sum of expenses is \$955 higher than they were last year, nearly one-half of which was expended in canvassing for endowments, and an increase to that fund of over \$14,000 has been secured. Of this sum nearly \$13,500 bears interest, and by which the cash receipts from that source will be increased about \$800 the coming year. Of the remainder of this excess about \$400 was expended distributing tracts—mostly in Nebraska, Tennessee and Virginia—including some extra expenses at Lincoln, Nebr., by Bro. L. H. Eby, who located there and preached the Word, and otherwise labored to build up the cause at that point.

The increase of postage and charges for transportation of printed matter is due to the fact that we last year required postage on tracts otherwise sent free whilst this year none was called for, and the goods forwarded by mail or express at the expense of the institution.

The sum contributed by the local churches has not met the expectations of the committee. The figures show a slight decrease. Out of over “six hundred” organized churches in America less than one hundred and twenty-five have, as such, contributed to the “work” last year. Deducting the value of tracts and other publications sent to churches, equal in amount to one-half the sum contributed, leaves the actual sum of donations small from this source.

Now, in order to more fully meet the design and growing requirements of the “work,” the committee in charge of it make a prayerful appeal to each and every Bishop and other overseer of local churches throughout the entire Brotherhood to timely place



this matter before their respective congregations, appoint solicitors to canvass, and otherwise secure contributions as opportunity may present. If this be done, as it should be and we trust will, and each one of the congregations not yet enrolled in this list will contribute but a small sum, the aggregate will be more than doubled the coming year. Let the spirit of the Gospel have free exercise everywhere and among all, and the most implicit trust, prayer and liberality of all engaged will be blessed and answered of the Lord and the cause prospered.

"We, your committee appointed to audit report of Book and Tract Committee, certify said report to be correct.

J. G. Royer,  
I. D. Parker,  
H. C. Early."

Report of committee to Huntingdon school:

We, the undersigned committee, appointed by last Annual Meeting to watch over the moral influences of the Huntingdon school, respectfully submit the following:

An appointment was made for the committee to visit the school in a body on the 16th day of December, 1890.

Bro. Holsinger, through some delay in the mail, failed to get the notice and was not present. Bro. Brumbaugh, being sick and unable to attend, sent Bro. Thomas Maddocks as a substitute.

Due notice of our visit was given and the working body of the trustees and all of the faculty met us in council. They received us most kindly, and after devotional exercises our mission was stated and all expressed themselves heartily in sympathy with the object of our mission, having no other motive in view than the good of the Church and the welfare of the young people committed to their care.

Making due allowance for the peculiar circumstances under which an institution of this kind is placed, we have nothing to censure, but much to commend, believing it is doing a good work for the Church. We commend the school to the sympathy and support of the Brotherhood.

As the work of watching over the school requires an outlay of time and money which we have not at our command, our work will, of course, be imperfectly done.

Jas. A. Sell, Thos. B. Maddocks, Committee.

#### Report of Committee on Mt. Morris College.

We, the Advisory Committee appointed by Annual Meeting to examine the moral and religious interests of the Brethren's School



at Mt. Morris, Ill., report as follows: The entire committee visited the school once since their appointment. We were welcomed by the faculty and students and received with Christian courtesy.

We stated the object of our visit and the relation we sustain to this body and the school. We held forth the usages of our church as decided by Annual Meeting and urged the necessity and propriety of their observance, referring to the influence for good they would wield upon our beloved fraternity, if adhered to and practiced in the schools.

Good regulations seemed to prevail in the school. With but little exception we found the faculty and students in the general order of the Brotherhood and a disposition on the part of the President and teachers to endeavor to obtain still further improvements in the moral and religious interests of the school.

George D. Zollers,  
Edmund Forney,  
David Eby.

#### **Report of Committee to McPherson College, Kansas.**

We, the Committee appointed by Annual Meeting of 1890 to visit McPherson College, Kansas, submit the following: While different members of the Committee made a number of visits to the School during the year as individuals, the Committee, as a whole, visited the school in the month of January. We are happy to state that both the attendance and the work done come up to all that can reasonably be expected, considering the age and facilities of the School. As to the moral and religious influence exerted, we wish to say that while there is room for improvement we found much to commend. The unanimity existing among the members of the faculty and board of managers, together with a desire to labor in harmony with the General Brotherhood, are commendable features of the work; and while there are here, as in all congregations of the Brotherhood, individual cases that need help and sympathy of all, we, as your Committee, feel much encouraged with the outlook, and pray that the Lord may continue to prosper the work and make it a greater power for good.

Enoch Eby,  
J. D. Trostle.

#### **Committees Appointed by Annual Meeting.**

1. The Cooks Creek and Beaver Creek Churches, 2d District of Virginia: S. R. Zug, Pennsylvania; E. W. Stoner, Maryland; Wm. Howe, Pennsylvania.



2. The Welsh Run Church, Western Maryland: Isaac Long, Virginia; S. H. Myer, Virginia; Wm. Howe, Pennsylvania.

3. Midland Church, 2d District of Virginia: S. R. Zug, Pennsylvania; E. W. Stoner, Maryland; Wm. Howe, Pa.

4. East Dayton Church, Southern District Ohio: R. H. Miller, Jacob Rife, Levi H. Dickey.

5. Committee for the California School: J. S. Flory, Enoch Eby, J. W. Metzger.

On New Testament Notes: R. H. Miller, James M. Neff.

7. Committee on German Hymn Book: S. R. Zug, J. H. Longanecker, Jacob Aldinger.

8. Tract Work Committee: S. W. Hoover, S. D. Royer, were appointed.

9. Committee to take charge of the question of anointing the sick: W. Deeter, D. C. Flory, J. B. Pence.

10. General Missionary Committee to serve three years: Jacob Miller, Franklin, Illinois.

11. On Tract Examining Committee: Lewis W. Teeter, of Indiana.

12. Committee to the Nettle Creek Church, Southern Indiana: R. H. Miller, M. J. McClure, John Smith, Jesse Stutzman, D. L. Miller.

The term of service on the School Committees was arranged as follows:

13. Bridgewater, Va.: Isaac Long, 1 year; Daniel Hays, 2 years; Daniel Miller, 3 years.

14. Huntingdon, Pa.: James A. Sell, 1 year; J. W. Brumbaugh, 2 years; J. S. Holsinger, 3 years.

15. Mt. Morris, Ill.: Geo. D. Zollers, 1 year; Edward Forney, 2 years; David Eby, 3 years.

16. McPherson, Kans.: Enoch Eby, 1 year; John Forney, 2 years; J. D. Trostle, 3 years.

17. Lordsburg, Cal.: J. W. Metzger, 1 year; Enoch Eby, 2 years; J. S. Flory, 3 years.

The Moderator and Elder Enoch Eby were instructed to send a letter of greeting to the Churches in Sweden and Denmark.

Calls for Annual Meeting:

California for 1894.

Northeastern Kansas.

Southern Indiana.

Middle Iowa.

The call from the Middle District of Iowa was granted, and



the next Conference will be held, the Lord willing, with the brethren in the Middle District of Iowa.

### Resolutions.

Resolved, that this meeting tender its thanks:

1. To the Committee of Arrangements for their suitable grounds and buildings; for their kindness and courtesy in providing for the comforts and wants of their guests during this Annual Meeting.

2. To the citizens of Hagerstown and vicinity for their kindness and respect in opening their homes to our brethren and friends.

3. To the various religious denominations of this city for the privileges accorded our brethren in their places of worship.

4. To the various railroad companies for granting our brethren and friends greatly reduced rates of fare and ample provision for the wants and comforts of our people.

5. We sincerely thank the good Lord for all these mercies and blessings.

### Standing Committee for 1891.

M. M. Bashore,	Thomas D. Lyon,	Wm. Hertzler,
Daniel Vaniman,	D. L. Miller,	Jeremiah Beughley,
John Ikenberry,	Isaiah Rairigh,	E. A. Brunner,
J. S. Mohler,	J. H. Miller,	D. R. Saylor,
John Gable,	Jacob Rife,	D. J. Miller,
John Zuck,	R. H. Miller,	John C. Frantz,
John Early,	John Smith,	Isaac Long,
J. E. Ellenberger,	John C. Whitmore,	S. H. Myers,
Jacob C. Whitmore,	George Worst,	Jonas Graybill,
Samuel Click,	J. C. Johnson,	Geo. C. Bowman,
M. J. McClure,	J. F. Oller,	
	Enoch Eby.	

Daniel Vaniman, Moderator; M. J. McClure, Reading Clerk; D. L. Miller, Writing Clerk.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF 1892.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The Standing Committee organized by electing Daniel Vaniman, of Kansas, Moderator; M. J. McClure, of Illinois, Reading Clerk, and D. L. Miller, of Illinois, Writing Clerk.



The General Conference was opened at 9 A. M., Tuesday, June 7, by the usual devotional exercises.

#### Unfinished Business.

##### 1. Revision of Hymn Book and Hymnal.

In the year 1888 there was a petition sent to the Annual Meeting, asking for a revision of our Hymn Book and Hymnal. This petition was deferred until the Annual Meeting of 1890, when it was again taken up and submitted to us, with instructions to report at the Meeting of 1891.

Having carefully and prayerfully considered the work entrusted to us, we now beg to submit the following report:

(1) We do not see the way clear for either diminishing the size, or improving the character, of our Hymn Book and Hymnal sufficiently to answer the various wants of our growing Brotherhood.

(2) We, therefore, recommend that the Brotherhood have prepared and published another book, to be known as "The Brethren's Song Book."

(3) This book to contain, not to exceed, 500 hymns, about 300 of which are to be selected from our present Hymn Book, and the remainder from other sources.

(4) The sentiment of the hymns to be in harmony with our faith and practice and suited to the wants of the Brotherhood for public worship, Sunday schools, council meetings, revival work, missionary fields and family worship.

(5) The arrangement of the hymns to be miscellaneous throughout the book, and numbered consecutively from first to last. Hymns from our present book to also have old number printed in brackets.

(6) The first one hundred and fifty hymns, or thereabouts, to be selected, especially for use in the missionary, revival and Sunday-school work, so that the plates may be used in printing a small book for use on the mission fields and in Sunday schools, if so desired. This book is to be known as the Brethren's Song Book, Part 1.

(7) The book to be printed in character notes, but no duplicate of tunes to be used.

(8) Several hymns may be arranged under one tune, provided they are on either the page with the music, or on the one facing it.

(9) The book to contain also the rudiments of music sufficient for good, practical use in learning to sing.

(10) The work to be printed with and also without music.



The book without music to have the same sized page and type as the Brethren's Hymn Book, to contain good paper and to be substantially bound in arabesque and morocco, plain.

(11) The book with music to have the same size and shape page as the Brethren's Hymnal, to contain good paper and to be substantially bound in board, half leather and morocco.

(12) The Annual Meeting shall appoint a competent brother to superintend the compilation of said book, with four other well-qualified brethren residing in different parts of the Brotherhood to assist in the compilation.

(13) The Meeting shall also appoint a competent brother, well versed in the science of music, to superintend the selection and arranging of the music, with four other well-qualified brethren, residing in different parts of the Brotherhood, to assist him in this part of the work.

(14) To aid them in their work the compilers of the hymns are to call through the Messenger for each member who feels an interest in the work to send a list of such hymns as they desire to have in the new book.

(15) To aid them in selecting music, well suited to all parts of the Brotherhood, the compilers of the music are also to make a similar call for selections of tunes for the new book.

(16) The book without music is to contain two indexes: (a) A general index, giving the first line of each hymn alphabetically arranged. (b) The subject index, giving the first line of each hymn arranged under subjects, such as Opening Hymns, Closing Hymns, Sunday-school Hymns, Missionary Hymns, Funeral Hymns, etc.

(17) The book with music is to contain the same index, with an addition of an index of the music.

(18) When completed, the books are to be published by the Brethren's Publishing Co., who are to pay all expenses for compilation and copyright.

The report was adopted.

2. Elders Anointing the Sick.

Will District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to give Scriptural authority for ministers who are not ordained elders to anoint the sick?

Answer: The query was ordered to be placed in the hands of a committee of three brethren, who shall report to next Annual Meeting. Committee, W. R. Deeter, D. C. Flory, J. B. Pence.

The Committee reports that it is not prepared to report, and on motion the Committee was continued and requested to report at next Annual Meeting.



## QUERIES.

1.

Will this District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to say whether the Brethren still hold the doctrine of avoidance, as heretofore? (See Classified Minutes, pp. 233 to 239.)

Answer: We do.

2.

Will not District Meeting request Annual Meeting to instruct the Clerk to index the Minutes of Annual Meeting, so they may be more conveniently referred to?

Answer: Passed Annual Meeting.

3.

(1) Inasmuch as Annual Meeting has decided that it is not right for a brother to be engaged in taking likenesses (see Classified Minutes, page 295), how shall the church proceed with a brother who is engaged in that business, and will not stop when admonished to do so?

(2) Inasmuch as the decisions of Annual Meeting in reference to the taking of likenesses are so generally disregarded, we ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to say what shall be done.

On motion both queries were deferred.

4.

What is the proper order for restoring deposed officers of the church? Should they be received into office by hand and kiss as when first elected, or is a simple statement by the elders, after obtaining the consent of the church for their restoration, sufficient?

Answer: Inasmuch as we have no form on our Minutes as to restoring officers, we now decide, in order to have a uniform practice, that we have the members come privately before disinterested elders and give their consent and the officers be received by hand and kiss.

5.

Inasmuch as secrecy is so great a hindrance to us as a church, we therefore petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to adopt some plan whereby the debate, held in Miami County, Ohio, in September, 1869, between Eld. James Quinter and Rev. McKinney on Freemasonry may be published, so that the public can have access to it.

Answer: Referred to Book and Tract Committee.

6.

Inasmuch as we look upon the use of unfermented wine at the



time of our Communion services to be in harmony with our Gospel principles of temperance,

Therefore we, the Brethren of the Black River church, Mich., petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting that the Annual Meeting of 1892 recommend its use.

Answer: The District Meeting of Michigan concurs with the above and asks Annual Meeting to so recommend.

Answer by Annual Meeting: Inasmuch as we use unleavened bread in the Communion, we recommend our churches to use unfermented wine.

7.

Is it right for ministers who will not serve and worship with their own church at home, to go out to other churches and hold meetings?

Answer: No; and adjoining elders shall set things in order. Passed by Annual Meeting.

8.

We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to advise all our members not to attend the World's Fair at Chicago.

Answer: Petition granted.

9.

We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to pass a decision for brethren to ask applicants for baptism, where they are not known to the brethren, whether they have any other companion living or not, to avoid future trouble in the church in cases of this kind.

Answer: We decide that it is proper to do so.

10.

On recommendation of the General Missionary Committee it was decided to send an elder to Denmark once every three years and that his wife shall accompany him if possible.

Passed Annual Meeting.

11.

We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to devise some way by which brethren may be relieved from the ministry or eldership when the church is fully satisfied that their labors are not to edification.

A committee of three appointed by Annual Meeting to report a plan to the next Conference were John Wise, Enoch Eby, Daniel Vaniman.



## 12.

Three queries referring to the publication of tracts were referred to a committee and the following report was submitted and adopted:

We, the Committee to whom were referred the papers on publication of tracts, report as follows:

(a) The Brethren's Publishing Company do not charge an unreasonable price for publishing our tracts.

(b) We recommend that the Book and Tract Committee invite competitive bids for the printing of tracts from responsible and well-established publishers.

Enoch Eby,  
W. R. Deeter,  
L. W. Teeter.

## 13.

We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to plainly define the duties of the visiting elders, who visit the colleges or schools of the Brethren, in making their visits to said schools. Can their report at Annual Meeting be objected to or criticised before the Annual Meeting or not?

Answer: Sent to Annual Meeting.

Referred to a committee and the following report was submitted and adopted.

Your Committee report as follows:

1. That no report of the schools be required at this meeting.  
2. That each advisory board submit to us in writing such suggestions as in their judgment would aid them in their relation to the school work.

3. That the Principal of each school in like manner formulate and transmit to us such suggestions as he may deem helpful to the advisory boards; these suggestions to be placed in our hands prior to November 15, 1892.

A report will be submitted to next Annual Meeting.

J. C. Lahman,  
S. F. Sanger,  
J. F. Oller,  
Jesse Stutzman,  
J. H. Moore.

## 14.

Whereas the students of our colleges are allowed to vote for ministers and some of them are elected to the ministry while they are only transient members attending school and are allowed to take an active part in, and vote in all important church work, which is calculated to undermine the fundamental principles of our church government; and whereas the election of ministers has always been regarded as a very solemn and important work



among us, therefore we petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to prohibit students at our colleges, who are only attending school and not permanently located, from voting for ministers, or in other important church work. Petition granted by District Meeting.

Answer: On motion this query was referred to the committee on the School Advisory Boards with instructions to report at next Annual Meeting.

## 15.

Is it right for our members to play such games as cards, checkers, authors, croquet, etc? Is there more harm in one of these games than in another, and what is the harm? Is it right for our members to have these games in their homes to keep their children from going away from home to seek other amusements?

This query was referred to a committee. The following report was submitted and adopted by Annual Meeting: We decide that card playing and like games are unquestionably wrong, and should not be indulged in by members or allowed in their homes; and we most earnestly admonish all our members to refrain from indulging in other games that may seem evil in their tendency, or give offense to members.

## 16.

We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to say whether it is in harmony with the Gospel and the order of the Brethren, for members to join the Young Men's Christian Association, or Young Men's College Christian Association.

Answer: As the Savior gave us no other organization than the Christian Church we think it sufficient for all Christian work.

## 17.

We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to say which is the proper course to pursue where there are two or more elders in a congregation, whether one should be appointed to take the oversight, or whether all should act as overseers.

Answer: We decide that where there is more than one elder located in a congregation, neither having the oversight, the church should say who should act as housekeeper.

**Report of the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee  
of the German Baptist Brethren Church to the Annual  
Meeting Held at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, June  
7th to 10th, 1892.**

By the grace of God, the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee has been enabled, during the year ending



April 5, 1892, to carry forward that part of the work of the church placed in their hands, of which the following is a report.

#### Foreign Missions.

The results of the work in Denmark and Sweden are such as to encourage the churches in America as well as in Europe. Elder Christian Hope spent the last six months of '91 in preaching and building up the cause in both fields. Elder D. L. Miller and Sister Miller visited all the churches in Denmark and Sweden without expense to the Committee, and their visit was a means of much encouragement to the brethren in Europe and a great aid to the Committee in pushing the work to the best advantage. During the year 1078 meetings were held, 33 were added to the church by baptism, and 6 reclaimed, making a total increase of 39 members. The entire membership is 162, of which 6 are elders, 5 ministers in the first and second degrees, 11 deacons, and 140 lay-members. The churches are reported as follows:—

Denmark.—The church in the northern part has 2 elders, 2 ministers in the first degree, 3 deacons, and 49 lay-members. There were 227 meetings held, 6 baptized, 2 reclaimed, 3 expelled, and one died. In Thyland there is one minister in the first degree, 3 deacons, and 15 lay-members; 20 meetings were held, 2 were reclaimed, one emigrated to America, and one died. In Copenhagen, one elder, one deacon, 19 lay-members; 243 sermons were preached, 3 baptized, 3 reclaimed, 3 expelled, and one emigrated to America. The entire membership is 96, showing an increase of 22 members during the year.

Sweden.—The church in Malmo, Limhamn, Kjefflinge, and Eslof has 39 members. Of these there are one elder and 3 deacons; 138 meetings were held, 7 were received by baptism, 3 emigrated to America, and 2 were expelled. In the church, including Wanneberga, Hor, and Elmhult there is one elder, one minister in the first degree, one deacon, and 25 lay-members; 343 meetings were held, 15 were baptized, and 2 emigrated to America. At Lulea, a new point of considerable promise, an elder has located within the past year and has held 82 meetings. The entire membership is 66, showing an increase of 17 members during the past year.

#### Home Mission Work by the General Missionary Committee.

Idaho and Washington.—Elder Sidney Hodgden and wife continued their labor in this field during the year; and the Committee believes the foundation for strong churches is being laid.



Home Mission Work by District Committees.

DISTRICTS.		On hand at beginning of year.	Donated by General Board.	Raised in the District.	Paid.	Number Meetings held	Baptized.	Mission Points.
California, .....	D. Overholtzer, Sec.	\$ 76 01	\$	\$ 40 85	\$ 76 75	200	10	2
Oregon and Idaho, .....	P. J. Baltimore, Sec. & Tr.	446 15	600	50 25	217 20	241	11	6
Nebraska, .....	J. L. Snively, Sec.	36 71	150	107 69	474 20	141	12	..
North-western Kans. and Colo., L. W. Fitzwater, Sec.	E. W. Price, Treas.	181 09	..	60 70	125 25	63	8	..
South-western Kansas, .....	S. B. Katherman, Sec.	36 07	..	125 84	133 87	..	..	7
North-eastern Kansas, .....	J. W. Brooks, Sec.	120 16	..	52 04	76 35	..	4	..
Northern Missouri, .....	Sam'l Wine, Treas.	..	150	171 82	66 08	150	4	7
Middle Missouri, .....	U. S. Blough, Sec.	..	100	261 48	251 93	..	..	8
Southern Missouri, .....	A. V. Sager, Sec.	54 12	..	309 99	325 75	..	11	..
N. Iowa and Dakota, .....	..	180 66	..	337 99	232 01	..	..	..
Middle Iowa, .....	..	20 76	..	27 25	54 03	..	..	..
Southern Iowa, .....	C. Rowland, Sec.	64 82	..	11 65	6 10	..	16	5
Northern Illinois, .....	..	47 93	..	530 25	667 25	235	14	4
Southern Illinois, .....	..	114 70	..	772 23	759 67	94	2	4
Northern Indiana, .....	Lewis J. Hooke, Treas.	68 85	200	172 60	71 80	..	..	4
Southern Indiana, .....	Jacob Mishler, Sec.	..	..	236 02	408 98	..	..	6
North-western Ohio, .....	Jonas Horning, Treas.	..	..	139 30	164 48	..	..	..
North-eastern Ohio, .....	..	135 41	..	199 89	173 73	..	16	..
Southern Ohio, .....	..	57 81	50	278 64	165 35	..	..	..
Michigan, .....	..	..	..	54 99	100 37	..	5	4
Middle Pennsylvania, .....	..	..	..	..	86 49	..	..	..
Western Pennsylvania, .....	..	195 68	..	..	..	..	1	2
Eastern Pennsylvania, .....	Geo. Bucher	..	500	519 80	338 88	..	..	..
Western Maryland, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eastern Maryland, .....	..	..	..	71 41	64 85	..	..	..
First West Virginia, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Second West Virginia, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
First Virginia, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Second Virginia, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tennessee, .....	C. H. Diehl, Treas.	..	150	..	74 95	238	59	9
Texas, .....	A. W. Austin, Sec.	..	250	..	..	..	..	..



One congregation has been organized with a membership of 22, and one minister elected. During the year Bro. Hodgden held 159 regular meetings, 6 council-meetings, and 2 love-feasts; 3 were received into the church by baptism, and 13 by letter, 9 moved away, and one was disowned. The work is quite promising. The mission points in Washington are still continued.

Louisiana.—Within the past year Elder James R. Gish visited the members at Esterly and while there organized them into a congregation. The labors of Elder S. A. Honberger, the missionary, have been blessed. During the year 104 regular meetings, 4 council-meetings, and one love-feast were held; 5 were received by baptism, and 19 by letter; one was lost by death. The Esterly church is quite hopeful, and under God's blessing they will continue to grow.

Kentucky.—During the year the Committee have made several efforts to locate a missionary in this field but so far have failed. The care of this point is still in Elder I. J. Rosenberger's hands. Last spring he visited the members and held 10 meetings and one council-meeting. One was received into the church by baptism.

Canada.—The work in this field, as well as in Kentucky, is greatly retarded on account of having no resident minister. At the request of Bro. John Metzger he was relieved of his charge of this field and Elder D. E. Brubaker was appointed in his place. Bro. Brubaker spent about six weeks visiting and preaching and held 33 regular meetings. Two were received by baptism.

The report is more complete than last year but the Committee regrets that full information, as indicated above, was not received from all the Districts and hopes that next year all will report in full. Let the District Boards require a report from their missionaries and then let the Boards report to their respective District Meetings, with the request to have the desired information spread on the Minutes so that the members in the District as well as in the General Brotherhood may see the efforts made, and the results obtained through God's blessing, and be encouraged, or "provoked to good works."

#### Assistance to State Districts.

Nebraska, .....	\$600 00
Southern Missouri, .....	100 00
Western Maryland, .....	500 00
Second West Virginia, .....	100 00
North-western Kansas, .....	150 00
Texas and Oklahoma, .....	250 00



North-western Iowa, .....	\$ 50 00
Middle Missouri, .....	150 00
Michigan, .....	50 00

#### Meeting-houses.—Donations.

Wade's Branch church, North-eastern Kansas, .....	\$ 100 00
Irish Grove church, Southern Iowa, .....	200 00
Dorrance church, North-western Kansas, .....	178 00
Boon River church, Northern Iowa, .....	175 00
Bijou church, Dakota, Northern Iowa, .....	125 00
*Powell's Valley Church, Oregon, .....	300 00
Monte Vista church, South-western Kansas, .....	200 00
Sterling church, Northern Illinois, .....	200 00
Chippewa church, Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, .....	200 00
West Lebanon church, Southern Indiana, .....	100 00
Hillisburg church, Southern Indiana, .....	100 00
Kewanna church, Middle Indiana, .....	200 00
At Wanneberga, Sweden, Europe, .....	1000 00

#### Meeting-houses.—Loans.

Wade's Branch church, North-eastern Kansas, .....	\$125 00
Boon River church, Northern Iowa, .....	175 00
Bijou Hills church, Dakota, Northern Iowa, .....	125 00
*Powell's Valley church, Oregon, .....	200 00
Osceola church, Middle Missouri, .....	100 00
Mansfield church, Southern Missouri, .....	150 00
West Lebanon church, Southern Indiana, .....	100 00
Hillisburg church, Southern Indiana, .....	200 00

\*Powell's Valley church has decided not to build at present and has returned the above.

#### Summary.

State Districts assisted, .....	9
Donations for Meeting-houses, .....	13
Loans to Meeting-houses, .....	8
Members Received by Baptism, .....	44

### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

1891.

#### Receipts.

April 1, Balance on Hand, .....	\$ 748 87
June 17, Received from Secretary of Mission Board, .....	1,142 94
June 27, Received from Loan, .....	1,000 00
Aug. 12, Received from John Olsson on his home, .....	81 37
Oct. 6, Received from Secretary Mission Board, .....	1,436 61

1892.

Jan. 6, Received from Secretary Mission Board, .....	4,174 10
April 5, Received from Secretary Mission Board, .....	3,678 12

Total, .....\$12,262 01

#### Expenditures.

Home Mission Work, .....	\$ 715 04
Foreign Mission Work, .....	2,672 48



Donations for Building Meeting-houses, .....	\$ 3,078 00
Loans for Building Meeting-houses, .....	1,175 00
Assistance for State Districts, .....	1,950 00
C. Hope's Expense to Denmark, and Family Support, .....	697 50
Debt on House at Hordum, Denmark, .....	626 75
Transferring Deeds of Meeting-houses in Europe, .....	137 50
Attorney's fee for Counsel on Endowment Notes, .....	50 00
Galen B. Royer, Secretary, .....	150 00
Tax on Real Estate, .....	13 02
Expense on Endowment Fund, .....	7 60
Printing Reports and Circulars, .....	88 61
Missionary Gospel Messengers, .....	128 10
Stationery and Postage, .....	53 65
Traveling Expenses of Committee, .....	76 49
Balance on Hand, .....	642 27

Total, .....\$12,262 01

### Endowment Fund.

Interest-bearing Notes.....	\$33,200 00
Non-interest-bearing Notes.....	15,505 00
Loans of Endowment Fund.....	7,445 00
Mt. Morris College Stock (Donated), .....	200 00
Bequests Estimated at.....	10,000 00
Cash on Hand.....	3,488 88

Total .....\$69,838 88

Increase ..... 7,838 88

### Amount Given by States and Territories.

Ohio .....	\$1,953 69	Louisiana, .....	\$ 18 20
Illinois .....	1,510 90	Tennessee .....	17 85
Pennsylvania .....	943 74	Kentucky .....	16 75
Indiana .....	660 83	Michigan .....	16 35
Iowa .....	496 58	Ontario, Canada.....	15 00
Kansas .....	213 84	New Jersey .....	12 56
California .....	204 25	Florida .....	8 32
Maryland .....	163 45	Colorado .....	5 00
Missouri .....	65 80	Arkansas .....	3 25
Virginia .....	48 40	Wisconsin, .....	2 50
Nebraska, .....	41 86	Dakota, .....	1 75
West Virginia .....	37 10	Idaho .....	1 75
Minnesota .....	33 15	Surplus of A. M. of 1891	2,666 63
Texas .....	26 75	Estates .....	350 29
Oregon .....	25 60	Children's Mission ....	48 50
Churches in Europe....	21 31	Sundries .....	799 82

Total .....\$10,431 77

Amount of loans, etc ..... 642 27

Total cash received .....\$11,074 04

To the above surplus of \$2,666.63 should be added \$540.00



which came too late to be put into this report, making the total two-thirds proceeds of Annual Conference for 1891, \$3,206.63. The Tract Work received the other third.

Although the past year was one of plenty there is no especial mark of it shown in the contributions by States. True, the sum total is about \$2,500.00 greater than last year, yet this increase must be credited to the surplus of our last Annual Meeting. Even Ohio, which shows an increase of \$1,100.00 over last year, must credit \$1,000.00 of that to one liberal-hearted old soldier of the cross within her borders. However, the Committee feels to thank God and commend the dear brethren and sisters who have contributed, for what they have given, and prays that through the influence of the Word and Spirit many will be induced to give this coming year who have not done so before. In a former meeting the General Conference recommended that each member give one cent per week. The Apostle writes, "Give as the Lord has prospered you," "with a willing heart as unto the Lord."

The Committee realizes that a great work rests upon them; that of themselves they can do little or nothing; but with the individual support of the members of the church, and the grace of God, a great and glorious work can be done. The Lord is ever willing to bestow his favor: hence the progress of this important work depends upon the church. Therefore let the brethren and sisters, as one man, assist by speaking, praying, and working for the cause, and new houses of worship will be built, congregations will be organized, sinners called home, and God be glorified. Then "the wilderness, and the solitary place, shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose."

Daniel Vaniman, Foreman.

D. L. Miller, Treasurer.

Galen B. Royer, Secretary.

We, the Committee appointed by Annual Meeting of 1892 to audit the books of the Missionary Committee for the year 1891-92, ending March 31, 1892, find the same to be correct. Signed,

John C. Mellinger,

L. H. Eby,

J. S. Kuns.

#### Annual Report of the Brethren's Book and Tract Work, for the Year Ending May 1, 1892.

Cash on hand last report.....	\$509 11
" contributed by local churches.....	704 28
" contributed by individuals.....	370 25



Cash collection, Tabernacle, Hagerstown, .....	\$ 98 37	
“ from sales of tracts.....	142 30	
“ from sales of Golden Gleams.....	233 90	
“ from sales of Bibles and books.....	413 77	
“ surplus from Annual Meeting.....	1,603 34	
“ interest from endowments and loans.....	1,359 20	
“ from new memberships.....	850 50	
“ from paid endowments.....	770 00	
		<hr/>
Cash from all sources.....		\$7,055 02
Odd outstanding accounts.....		451 50
Endowment fund.....		53,437 33
		<hr/>
Grand total.....		\$60,943 85

### Expense Account.

Executive Committee, .....	\$ 50 85	
Examining Committee.....	42 75	
Stamps and transportation charges.....	275 63	
Passover Charts purchased and goods received back.....	38 05	
Fixtures added to office.....	39 00	
Bibles and books purchased.....	397 41	
Printing .....	1,106 65	
Agents' services and expenses.....	720 23	
Secretary—including light, rent and fuel.....	450 00	
Foreman .....	100 00	
		<hr/>
Total .....	\$ 3,220 57	
Balance .....	57,723 28	
Less outstanding accounts, .....	\$ 451 50	
“ endowment fund, interest bearing.....	36,947 33	
“ endowment bequests.....	16,490 00	
“ endowments paid and loaned out.....	1,250 00	
“ surplus loan at interest.....	1,800 00	\$56,938 83
		<hr/>
Cash balance on hand.....	\$ 784 45	

### Summary.

Cash on hand.....	\$ 784 45	
Outstanding accounts.....	451 50	
Bills receivable.....	53,437 33	
Golden Gleams on hand.....	62 50	
Bibles and books on hand.....	277 84	
Tracts on hand.....	118 00	
Pamphlets on hand.....	332 50	
Safe, stationery, office books and fixtures.....	119 00	
Surplus loan, .....	1,800 00	
		<hr/>
Present worth.....		\$57,383 12
Worth last report.....		47,138 92
		<hr/>
Gains for the year, .....		\$10,244 20



## Donations by States.

From Churches.		From Individuals.	
Pennsylvania, .....	\$ 188 44	Pennsylvania, .....	\$ 247 85
Ohio .....	172 65	Virginia .....	36 41
Illinois .....	139 25	Ohio .....	36 06
Iowa .....	62 25	Illinois .....	19 58
Indiana .....	41 83	Maryland .....	9 00
Kansas .....	24 53	Iowa .....	8 35
California .....	24 51	Indiana, .....	6 25
Missouri .....	18 04	Missouri .....	2 00
West Virginia .....	17 58	Kansas .....	2 00
Virginia .....	13 20	West Virginia .....	1 00
Florida .....	2 00	Minnesota .....	1 00
		Nebraska .....	50
		Tennessee .....	25

## Number of Publications Sold and Distributed During the Year.

Tracts—all kinds, .....	432,308
Bibles, books and Gleams, .....	1,282

Total number for the year, .....433,590

## Number of Tracts Sent to States from Aug. 1, 1891.

To Pennsylvania .....	129,540	To South Carolina, ....	950
Maryland .....	77,360	Michigan .....	700
Indiana .....	39,607	Oregon .....	505
Illinois .....	20,880	New Jersey .....	500
Ohio .....	16,051	Kentucky .....	500
Kansas .....	12,820	Canada .....	475
Missouri .....	11,897	Florida .....	450
Europe .....	10,000	Georgia .....	400
Iowa .....	9,118	Indian Territory ...	400
Nebraska .....	8,144	Wisconsin .....	400
Virginia .....	8,118	Tennessee .....	200
California .....	3,850	South Dakota .....	150
West Virginia .....	3,000	Louisiana .....	150
Arkansas .....	1,533	Texas .....	130
New York .....	1,200	North Carolina .....	100
Colorado .....	1,600	Idaho .....	100
		Mississippi .....	50

Samuel Bock, Secretary,  
Dayton, Ohio.

We, the committee appointed by Annual Meeting to audit the report of the Book and Tract Work, find it to be correct as far as we could ascertain from the report. Signed,

Galen B. Royer,  
A. B. Barnhart,  
H. E. Light,



**Report of the Trustees of the General Conference to the Annual Meeting, Held at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, June 7-10, 1892.**

The Trustees of the General Conference submit the following report of work done during the year ending with this Annual Meeting:

1. The resolution to amend the corporate name of the board of trustees as passed at last Annual Meeting, (see Minutes of 1892, p. 8), was filed in the Department of State, of the State of Wisconsin, July 2, 1891. Hence, the corporate name of said board is: Trustees of the General Conference of the German Baptist Brethren Church.

2. Whereas, Our late Bro. Levi W. Riley, deceased July 14, 1890, by his last will did give and bequeath to the German Baptist Church of America the sum of \$2,500.00, to be put at interest, the interest of \$500.00 thereof to be for the employment of ministers of the said church, in the City of Los Angeles, California; and the interest of \$500.00 for the support of the School of the said church at Lordsburg, California; and the interest on \$500.00 to be for the Bridgewater, Virginia, School; and the interest on \$1,000.00 to be for the School and missionary work of the said church in Los Angeles County, California.

On account of both advantage and convenience, the said legacy of \$2,500.00 was collected and received August 18, 1891, at Tropic, California, by brethren D. A. Norcross, S. A. Overholtzer, and Daniel Houser, of the same place, as the attorneys in fact of the Board of Trustees, by authority of Power of Attorney. The said sum of \$2,500.00 to be kept by them invested, indefinitely, according to the provisions of the said will.

3. Deeds of the church properties received:

(a) Deed of church property at Adrian, Bates County, Missouri.

(b) Deed of St. Louis church property.

(c) Deed of church property in Harrison County, Iowa.

(d) The deeds of the properties in Denmark and Sweden had been received but were returned for the securing of those properties

L. W. Teeter,  
Henry Frantz,  
S. R. Zug,

Trustees H. C. Baker and H. C. Early, absent. Trustees.

**Committees Appointed by Annual Meeting.**

The Standing Committee decides that the Committee to the



Eastern churches, J. G. Royer, S. R. Zug, and Jacob Oller, be continued and expenses not paid by said churches to be paid by the Missionary Committee.

The petition to Annual Meeting through District Meeting to devise some way by which brethren may be relieved from the ministry or eldership when the church is fully satisfied that their labors are not to edification, was, by the Meeting, referred to the following committee: John Wise, Enoch Eby and Daniel Vaniman.

To serve on General Missionary Committee: Daniel Vaniman, L. A. Plate.

To serve on Tract Committee: S. Bock, Isaac Frantz.

Examining Committee on Tracts: Daniel Hays.

School Visitors: Huntingdon, Pa., James A. Sell; Bridgewater, Va., Levi Wenger; Mount Morris, Ill., Levi Trostle; McPherson, Kan., Enoch Eby; Lordsburg, Cal., Isaac M. Gible.

Committee to West Lebanon church, Indiana: J. C. Murray, Wm. Harshberger, and L. T. Holsinger.

Committee on Compilation of Hymn Book: D. L. Miller, James A. Sell, J. S. Mohler, L. W. Teeter, and Geo. S. Arnold.

Committee on Music for Hymnal: D. F. Stauffer, William H. Beery, J. H. Showalter, S. Z. Sharp, and J. H. Moore.

Advisory Committee: L. W. Teeter, 2 years; Daniel Hays, 3 years.

Committee to Grand Prairie church, Sidney, Nebr.: Enoch Eby, J. W. Trostle, and A. M. Dickey.

Committee to Examine Books of Book and Tract Work: I. J. Rosenberger, J. C. Bright, and A. G. Crosswhite.

To assist Bro. L. W. Teeter and James Neff on New Testament Notes: D. L. Miller.

### Resolutions.

Resolved, that this Meeting express its deep sense of obligation to the Lord for his kind providence and evidence of his presence with us.

Thanks are tendered: 1. To the Committee of Arrangements for their satisfactory accommodations, and for their kindness and courtesy in providing for the comforts and wants of their guests during this Annual Meeting.

2. To the citizens of Cedar Rapids and vicinity for the warm and hearty reception given to our people.

3. To the various denominations of this city for the use of their houses of worship, so freely given.



4. To the various railroad companies for the favors so courteously granted us.

5. To the street-car lines for the very satisfactory manner in which they transported our people to and from the Meeting.

6. To the Commercial Company of Cedar Rapids for erecting such commodious buildings, fitting up grounds, etc.

7. For the excellent police service rendered during the Meeting.

8. To the brethren and sisters of Middle Iowa for their genial hospitality and Christian courtesy.

#### Standing Committee for 1892.

G. C. Bowman,	Stephen Johnson,	Robert Goshorn,
Daniel Peters,	J. J. Hoover,	J. C. Murray,
Geo. S. Arnold,	B. B. Whitmer,	E. Forney,
D. F. Stauffer,	John Wise,	David Troxel,
James A. Sell,	I. M. Gible,	David Bowman,
Edward Loomis,	D. L. Miller,	Samuel Flory,
I. J. Rosenberger,	John B. Naff,	J. W. Trostle,
Jacob S. Snell,	Daniel Hays,	William Davis,
Isaac Rairigh,	E. W. Stoner,	J. H. Neher,
D. B. Eby,	S. R. Zug,	Henry Brubaker,
C. Holdeman,	J. C. Johnson,	Samuel Barklow.
Chas. H. Brown,	L. H. Dickey,	
M. J. McClure,		Daniel Vaniman,
	Reading Clerk.	Moderator.
	D. L. Miller, Writing Clerk.	

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF 1893.

Muncie, Indiana.

Standing Committee organized by electing Bro. D. E. Price, of Illinois, Moderator; Bro. John Wise, of Kansas, Reading Clerk, and Bro. J. G. Royer, of Illinois, Writing Clerk.

The General Conference was opened at 8 A. M., May 23, by the usual devotional exercises.

#### Unfinished Business.

1. Report of Committee appointed by Annual Meeting, 1891, to consider Art. 19, asking "Scriptural authority for ministers who are not ordained elders to anoint the sick."

Let us consider:



I. Who are elders? The Scriptural use of the term indicates that it is not always applied to ordained elders or bishops.

1. It is sometimes used to denote seniors, persons more advanced in age as compared with those who are younger. Luke 15: 25; 1 Tim. 5: 1, 2; 1 Pet. 5: 5. Such are to be held in high esteem and honor, Lev. 19: 32, and have an inherent right of authority, 1 Tim. 2: 12, 13; hence its application to church officials.

2. Coming thus into use, it would likely be applied to all who held authority in the church. Thus in Acts 15 there is repeated mention of apostles and elders, but no mention of other officials, except those chosen as representatives of the council, termed prophets. Verse 32. There are reasons to apprehend that the term here includes the various church officials.

3. In Acts 14: 23 the persons appointed could scarcely be ordained elders or bishops.

(1) They were just awakened from the grossest idolatry. Verses 11 to 18.

(2) A new convert is not eligible. 1 Tim. 3: 6.

(3) Haste in so important a matter is forbidden. 1 Tim. 5: 22.

(4) The word here translated ordain does not mean the laying on of hands, but to elect or choose by holding up the hands to vote. The same word is used in 2 Cor. 8: 19, where a companion was chosen by the church to accompany Paul in the distribution of their alms.

(5) But if such an appointment could be thought possible under the circumstances, is it likely that no other officers but ordained elders were appointed, i. e., none but the highest officers in the church? It is reasonable that others were appointed, and that the "ordaining" was the appointing of elderly persons of wisdom and prudence to take the oversight of the church as pastors, deacons, etc., called by the general term elders.

4. Conversely, in a somewhat formal enumeration of the offices and gifts of the church, 1 Cor. 12: 28, no mention is made of elders; and since the apostle was careful to ordain elders in all the churches, this omission would be remarkable, not to say unaccountable, unless we conclude that in naming these several offices and endowments of the church he is in fact naming the elders. So also the officials designated by specific terms, as bishops and deacons, Philpp. 1: 1; 1 Tim. 3: 2, 8, are called elders when spoken of collectively or as a body, Acts 11: 30; 20: 17; 21: 18; James 5: 14; and since this term is not restricted to ordained elders neither can this service be so restricted.

II. Who are authorized to heal? As the recovery of the sick



is here contemplated, let us examine a few texts with reference to the official agents employed in healing.

1. The twelve apostles were authorized and commanded to heal the sick. Luke 9: 1, 2. Additional information is given, Mark 6: 13.

2. The seventy, likewise, were charged with the same commission. Luke 10: 9.

3. Similar gifts were afterwards promised those that should believe, Mark 16: 18, without official reference.

4. The "gifts of healing," 1 Cor. 12: 28, are not restricted to the higher offices; nor to any particular office save that of the gift itself. Hence, these gifts being thus widely distributed leads to the conclusion that the authority to heal is not limited to ordained elders.

Wherefore there is nothing in the conditions of the service, James 5: 14, requiring that ordained elders alone should officiate; but other ministers, having the necessary qualifications and endowments, and duly authorized by the church, may be available in the service. Respectfully submitted by

W. R. Deeter,  
D. C. Flory,  
J. B. Pence,  
Committee.

2. Report of Committee on Plan to relieve church officials who do not labor to edification.

We, the undersigned Committee, appointed by last Annual Meeting to present to this Meeting a plan to relieve elders and ministers from office when the church is fully satisfied that their official labors are not to edification, respectfully submit the following:

1. In congregations where there seems to be general sentiment that the official labors of any elder, minister or deacon, are not and cannot be made profitable to the church, the deacons may, on the annual visit, without using any influence either for or against, get the preference of the members in reference to continuing such brother in office.

If there be found a preponderance of sentiment against continuing his official labors, let the facts be stated in writing to the elders at District Meeting.

If a majority of the elders at District Meeting concur in their sentiment they shall appoint a committee of elders, who shall request such brother to ask the church to relieve him of his office, giving him the reasons for it.



If he will not do this, then said committee shall, at a legally called council in the church where his membership is, give the church an opportunity to express her wish concerning his continuance in office.

2. When in any way a majority of the elders at the District Meeting have become fully satisfied that the official labors of any officer in the district are not to edification, but rather a hindrance than a help to the church, they shall appoint a committee of elders to proceed the same as above stated.

3. If any officer in the State District for any reason does not wish to serve the church in official capacity, he may state his reasons in writing to the elders at District Meeting.

If a majority of the elders consider his reasons of sufficient importance to require attention, they shall appoint a committee of elders to meet the church where his membership is in council, and after giving the reason assigned, the church may relieve him of his office, provided a majority of the church and of the elders present consider it best to do so.

4. Where any officer in a State District persists in a course not in harmony with the usages and general order of the Brotherhood as defined by Annual Meeting to such an extent that a majority of the elders at District Meeting consider his official labors rather a hindrance than a help to the Brotherhood, they shall appoint a committee of elders to labor privately with him, and if he will not heed their admonitions, they shall give him an opportunity to have a fair trial before the church where his membership is.

If he refuses to be tried, or persists in being insubordinate when tried, they may, whether favored by a majority of his church or not, depose him from office, and such action shall be respected by all the churches until it be overruled by a committee from Annual Meeting, or he be reinstated by a majority of the church where his membership is; favored also by a majority of the elders of the district.

John Wise,  
Enoch Eby,  
Daniel Vaniman.

The foregoing reports were accepted; to be spread upon the Minutes and voted upon at Annual Meeting of 1894.

#### Reports Accepted.

1. Report of Committee on Consolidation.

Hagerstown, Md., May 27, 1891.

We, the undersigned Committee, appointed by Annual Meeting



of 1890 to present a plan for the Consolidation of the General Church Erection and Missionary Work, and the Book and Tract Work, respectfully submit the following:

(1) That Standing Committee shall nominate and Annual Meeting approve and perpetuate a Committee of "five members as Trustees," to serve for a term of three years, except those first appointed, one of whom shall serve one year, two two years, and two three years. Said Committee shall be called the General Missionary and Tract Committee of the German Baptist Brethren Church, and shall be the successor of both the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee and the Book and Tract Work, to hold in trust, manage, control and use all the property rights and interests now vested in both the above-named organizations for the promotion of the objects for which they were designed.

(2) The Committee shall meet as often as necessary to carry on its work successfully and shall elect its own officers, make its own By-Laws, fill all vacancies that may incidentally occur in the Committee, inform Standing Committee each year whose term has expired and recommend to General Conference for adoption anything necessary to forward its work.

(3) The object of this Committee shall be to send suitable Brethren to preach the Gospel and to assist in building plain houses of worship, publishing and distributing printed matter, to organize and build up churches, and, when suitable arrangements can be made and wisdom dictates, to own and control all the publishing interests of the church.

(4) Any church situated in a State District, in order to get help from the general Committee, must first circulate a subscription among themselves and raise all they can, and then apply to the District Committee for help. If the District Committee is unable to supply the deficiency, help may be obtained from the general Committee, either as a loan, donation or both, if need be, upon approval and recommendation of the District Committee.

(5) The General Committee shall quarterly or oftener circulate throughout the Brotherhood a printed report explanatory of the nature and progress of its work, and shall annually submit a report of all its work to the General Conference for approval, and the Standing Committee shall annually inspect the report of the General Committee before it is submitted to the General Conference, and shall assist the Committee in developing any necessary improvements for advancing the work.

(6) The funds for this work shall consist of bequests, endow-



ments, free-will offerings and money received as life interests, and from the sale of publications.

(7) We recommend that each member give for the Mission and Tract Work of the church as the Lord has prospered him, upon the principle taught in 1 Cor. 16: 8.

(8) Let each congregation throughout the Brotherhood appoint solicitors to solicit all members annually and receive their offerings, and forward same to the General Committee, who shall receipt for the amount, and upon application shall annually forward tracts to such congregation to the value of ten per cent of the sum sent.

(9) Any person paying or obligating him or herself to pay twenty or more dollars, as a life membership, as an endowment of the work or otherwise, shall be entitled to draw publications annually to the value of one dollar for each twenty dollars so contributed.

(10) The Standing Committee shall nominate and Annual Meeting confirm a committee of five faithful and well-informed brethren, whose duty it will be to examine and approve of all matters to be published and distributed as tracts.

(11) All former decisions touching the general Church Erection and Missionary Work or the Book and Tract Work, in any way conflicting with this arrangement, shall upon the adoption of this report become null and void.

(12) Owing to the importance of the work and the interest involved, we recommend that this plan be placed on the Minutes and deferred for two years.

Signed by the committee,

Daniel Vaniman,  
D. L. Miller,  
S. W. Hoover,  
Samuel Bock,  
Enoch Eby,  
D. E. Price,  
Daniel Hays.

## 2. Report of School Visiting Elders.

(a) (Query deferred from 1892.) We ask Annual Meeting to plainly define the duties of the visiting elders, who visit colleges, or schools of the Brethren, in making their visits to said schools. Can their report, at Annual Meeting, be objected to or criticised before the Annual Meeting?

Your committee begs to submit the following answer. The



Annual Meeting has already decided (Art. 14, 1890) that it is the duty of the school visiting elders,

1. To watch over the moral and religious influence of the schools and colleges conducted by the Brethren;
2. See that the principles of the Gospel and church government be carried out as defined by Annual Meeting;
3. And to annually report the condition of the schools to the Annual Meeting.

It was also decided at the same time that,

1. All members of the Faculty, who are members of the church, shall be in full sympathy with the principles and doctrines of the church, and shall conform to the order of the Brotherhood in their personal appearance;

2. And at least once each year, the doctrine of the church shall be especially held forth in a series of doctrinal sermons.

To the above we add and recommend,

1. That the visiting elders, in a body, if practicable, visit the schools once each term, and make such suggestions and recommendations for the moral and religious guidance of the schools, as in their judgment may be deemed for the good of the school, as well as for the maintenance of the principles of the church.

2. In making these suggestions and recommendations, they shall confer with the principals as well as the trustees of the schools, and may also have all the members connected with the schools (teachers and students) assembled to hear such instructions, admonitions and encouragements as prudence may dictate.

3. It shall be the special duty of these elders to see that all necessary, reasonable and prudent efforts be made to maintain Gospel plainness and simplicity among the members attending and connected with the schools, and also to see that once each year our principles of church government, as well as the doctrine of the church, be clearly set forth before the school in one or more sermons on that subject.

4. They shall urge upon the managers of the schools the importance and necessity of keeping the Commencement Exercises, Literary Societies, as well as all other gatherings connected with or belonging to the schools, within the bounds of Christian propriety, and discourage everything and anything that tends to produce only levity, display, coarseness and light mindedness.

5. We also urge the importance of the visiting elders making themselves acquainted with the work and character of the Bible Terms connected with our schools, and make to the managers of



these departments such suggestions as will tend to the maintaining of the doctrine, distinctive features and harmony of the Brotherhood.

6. In order to carry out these principles, for the good of the schools as well as the good of the church, we emphasize the importance of the visiting elders being men of broad views, who are in sympathy with our educational interests, as well as sound in the faith and doctrine of the Brethren church.

7. Nothing in these suggestions shall be so construed as to interfere with the business management or government of the schools.

8. The visiting elders shall submit, in writing, to the Standing Committee, an annual report of the condition of the schools with such suggestions and requests for advice as may be deemed advisable. These reports are entirely at the disposal of the Standing Committee.

9. The actual expense of the visiting elders, incurred by visiting the schools, shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Annual Meeting.

J. C. Lahman,  
Jesse Stutsman,  
S. F. Sanger,  
J. F. Oller,  
J. H. Moore,

(b) Whereas the students of our colleges are allowed to vote for ministers and some of them are elected to the ministry while they are only transient members attending school, and are allowed to take an active part in, and vote in all important church work, which is calculated to undermine the fundamental principles of our church government; and whereas the election of ministers has always been regarded as a very solemn and important work among us, therefore we petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to prohibit students at our colleges, who are only attending school and not permanently located, from voting for ministers, or in other important church work. Petition granted by District Meeting.

Answer: On motion this query was referred to the committee on the School Advisory Boards with instructions to report at next Annual Meeting.

Answer by Committee: We advise that churches, where our schools are located, do not elect to the ministry members who are "transient students." By "transient student" we mean one who is located at the school only during the "school year." Any dis-



satisfaction arising from "transient students" taking an active part in important local church work should be referred to the advisory elders in council with the church. J. C. Lahman, Jesse Stutsman, S. F. Sanger, J. F. Oller, J. H. Moore.

### 3. Report of Hymn Book Committee.

1. That a Sunday School Book be published separate from the Hymn Book.

2. That a new Hymn Book and Hymnal be compiled and published to contain about nine hundred hymns. Five hundred of these hymns to be selected from the present Hymn Book, and the remainder from other sources.

3. That the present Missionary Hymn Book be accepted upon a revision of the same and an addition of hymns thereto. But all the hymns for the Missionary Hymn Book are to be selected from the proposed new Hymn Book.

Report of committee, together with queries bearing on the Hymn Book, was disposed of over the following answer:

Decided that the old Hymn Book be continued as it is, and the committee be instructed to improve the Missionary Hymn Book, and also produce a book for Sunday schools, as suggested by the committee.

The following was also accepted:

Muncie, Ind., May 24, 1893.

We, the Committee appointed by Annual Meeting of 1891 to compile a German Hymn Book, report the following:

We have agreed to make a selection of about four hundred hymns for the new book, and after going through the books we had at hand, and selecting what we considered the best, we found we had only about 380, which were mostly selected from the two books recommended by Annual Meeting. And since there is a general demand, in the churches where the German is used, for English, in connection with the German, we, your committee, ask Annual Meeting for permission to have the English book, authorized by Annual Meeting, bound, in connection with the German.

S. R. Zug,

J. H. Longanecker,

J. Aldinger.

### Queries.

1. Can a District Meeting hold its session and transact business with but one elder present?

Answer: Sent to Annual Meeting. Answer by Annual Meeting: Yes, when legally called.



2. Will the District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to reconsider Art. 10 of Minutes of 1892, and so change that no brother or sister be sent to foreign countries to do missionary, or church work, without first obtaining a favorable assent of the local District in which they live, as to their qualifications, then also obtain the consent of Standing Committee and approval of Annual Meeting, and that no brother or sister be allowed to go for the above purpose in the name of the Brotherhood without being so sent?

Answer: Decided that the request be granted.

3. The Slate Creek church asks Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to explain what is meant by holding office under the civil government as found in Art. 25, 1867, page 274, in "Classified Minutes." Does that language mean all, even township officers, such as township clerk, school director, etc.?

Answer: We decide that brethren should not ask or electioneer for civil office, or attend nominating conventions, but if they are elected without such efforts and the office is imposed upon them, they may, with the consent of their respective churches, serve, when so doing will not compromise any Gospel principles; and, further, we strongly advise brethren to keep out of politics altogether.

4. Since Annual Meeting has defined the cut of coat for our brethren (especially official brethren), we ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, what shall be done with brethren who disregard the order of the church by wearing the straight-cut, popular frock coat usually worn by popular clergymen? Rom. 12: 2; 1 John 2: 15, 16; 1 Cor. 8: 12, 13; 1 Pet. 1: 14. Sent to Annual Meeting with a request to place in the Minutes the decision of Art. 47, 1866.

Resolved, by this Annual Meeting: That the churches throughout the Brotherhood enforce plainness of dress, and a plain manner of wearing the hair and beard, upon the preachers and officers of the churches. By plainness of dress, we mean the common order of giving shape to dress, as practiced by the old brethren and sisters generally; and by plainness of hair we mean the hair parted on top of the head or all combed back in a plain manner, or combed straight down all around the head, and not having the hair and beard trimmed according to the custom of the world.

Considered, that this Annual Meeting unanimously adopt this resolution, according to Rom. 12: 2; 1 Pet. 1: 14; 1 John 2: 15, 16, and that all preachers and officers that follow the fashions of the world in the foregoing particulars, violate the order of the Gospel by doing so, and render themselves liable to be brought under the counsel of the church.

5. We, the Abilene church, ask Annual Meeting, through Dis-



strict Meeting, to say whether any church has a right, according to the Gospel and order of the church, to refuse a letter of membership granted by any adjoining district, to a brother in good standing, but is now held in suspense for no other cause, but that he wears a full beard for more than thirty years for conscience' sake.

Answer: Said church does right if the brother will not comply with Art. 2 of 1886, and Arts. 2 and 3 of 1888; but if he does comply with the requirements of Minutes of Annual Meeting, the church does wrong in not receiving the letter.

1888, Art. 2.—Inasmuch as Annual Meeting has granted the liberty of conscience to wear a full beard, also granted the liberty of conscience not to salute such brethren, will not the District Meeting ask the Annual Meeting to decide that brethren should clip their mustache so as not to hinder in the salutation of the kiss? Answer.—Brethren, who do not trim the hair on the upper lip so that they may be decent and orderly, shall be considered as offenders and dealt with accordingly.

1888, Art. 3.—Since Annual Meeting has granted brethren three different ways to wear their hair, and has forbidden them to shingle their hair, will not the District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to stop the fashion of shingling the hair among the brethren? Answer: Brethren should not follow the fashions of the world in the cutting or wearing of their hair or beard. 1 Pet. 1: 14.

6. We petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to say whether it is right for the brethren to open their houses of worship, in which to hold Sunday-school conventions?

Answer: No. Sent to Annual Meeting. Passed.

7. Inasmuch as the brethren in our colleges and in other churches where they hold Bible Terms have introduced imaginary Bible views, shown in a darkened room, with a magic lantern, thereby offending some of the members, they thinking it is running in the same way popular churches have gone in church entertainments until they have theatrical performances; therefore we petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to say whether our members shall be allowed to participate in such entertainments.

Answer: No, sent to Annual Meeting.  
Passed.

8. We petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to say if an elder whom the church has ordained and is still in active life, can resign his care of said church because some desire him to do so, and if so, has said church a right to choose an elder to care for them, outside of her own congregation, when there are two or more ordained elders living in said church?

This Annual Meeting decides, that under certain peculiar cir-



cumstances an elder, by the consent of his church and adjoining elders, may resign his charge, and the church, assisted by adjoining elders, choose one to preside over such church.

9. Southern District of Illinois asks Annual Meeting to say whether the coat known as "the clergyman's coat" shall be recognized as being in the order of the Brotherhood.

Answer: No, and sent to Annual Meeting.

10. Whereas ministerial meetings are becoming very prevalent in our beloved Brotherhood, and to the dissatisfaction of some of the dear members, we, the Brethren of the Santa Fe church, ask the Middle District of Indiana to ask Annual Meeting of 1893 to take the question into consideration, that we may have the united sanction of the entire Brotherhood, and then be under the advice of the Annual Meeting, as all other questions are, of great importance, and not be suggested and carried on by a comparatively few. Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Annual Meeting decides that ministerial meetings, if properly conducted, are very beneficial, and she encourages all ministers to attend them.

11. If the Brethren of this District Meeting think it in accordance with God's Word for the sisters to wear their prayer-covering when they are at the table, while thanks are being offered, will they ask Annual Meeting to charge the elders to frequently admonish the sisters on the subject?

Answer: It is right to so wear the covering, and it is the duty of elders so to admonish.

12. We ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to require the Book and Tract Committee, as well as all other committees who are working in the interest of the church, to send out only such brethren and sisters to work up the cause, who are in the order of the church as adopted by the General Brotherhood. Sent to Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting decides that persons sent out to do church work shall be in the order of the church, both in their personal appearance and in their teaching.

13. Whereas the great evil of secret societies is growing, and is multiplying in the land, to the detriment of the family, the church, and the civil government; and, whereas there are reports in places of brethren holding membership in secret societies; and, whereas, some elders seem to be unwilling to take action in the matter, seeming inclined rather to husband and shield the guilty; therefore, will not this Annual Meeting authorize any member



who has the knowledge of a member or members belonging to a secret order, or is reported as belonging to a secret order, to report such case or cases to the church in which such member or members live, and if the elder refuses to act or delays action in the case or cases, then the complaining member shall reduce the complaint to writing, with one or more names signed, and shall present it to the adjoining elders, whose duty it will be to investigate the complaint; also the unfaithfulness of the elder or elders for not investigating the report? Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Yes, this Annual Meeting so authorizes.

14. The church of Botetourt County, Virginia, through the First District of Virginia to the Annual Meeting, greeting. After considering the question of the church purchasing the Gospel Messenger, and holding and managing it as the property of the church, we unanimously decide that being satisfied with it in every way, we are not in favor of the proposed change, and advise to let it remain as it is until we see good reason for a change. Respectfully submitted. Signed in behalf of the church by B. F. Moomaw, Samuel Crumpacker, I. N. H. Beahm.

Answer by District Meeting: The First District of Virginia in District Meeting assembled, think it not advisable to purchase the Brethren's publishing interests now. This answers for all the queries on list pertaining to publishing interests.

15. Whereas the order of the German Baptist Brethren, concerning the taking of likenesses of and by members, seems to be disregarded by many of our members, even such as are prominent in the missionary cause, and by sad experience we learn that such behavior has a tendency to cripple the efforts to raise money for missionary purposes in those churches that have still been loyal to the non-conforming principles of the Brotherhood; we, therefore, ask District Meeting of Eastern Pennsylvania to urge the elders of their respective churches to enforce Article 21 of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1869. Classified Minutes, p. 295.

Answer: District Meeting does so request. Sent to Annual Meeting.

This paper was put into the hands of a committee to report at next Annual Meeting. Daniel Hays, F. P. Cassel and J. H. Moore, Committee.

#### Sweden and Denmark, Europe.

16. (a) Would it be considered expedient for a church to



elect a brother for office as a minister in the first degree, whose wife is not a member, and can there be anything in regard to his wife as not a member to hinder said brother to be forwarded into the second degree, and even to be an elder, even if his wife should be an infidel, providing there be no objection to the brother? (b) If an elder's wife as a member should fall, and even go over to infidelity, can elder stand as an elder, still providing there be no objection to the elder? If he cannot be held as an elder still, because of his wife's fall, how far shall he be put back?

Answer: While it would not be expedient, as a rule, to elect a brother to the ministry, whose wife is not a member of the church, it would not be wrong to elect, and even advance to the eldership a faithful brother, because his wife is not a member of the church; and if a faithful elder's wife should fall, and go over even to infidelity, such conduct should not affect the brother's office, provided he continue faithful. 1 Cor. 7: 12-14.

17. (a) How is it considered if young members who are going to marry, but do not take a marriage certificate either by the government or by the state-priest, according to law, but think it is enough when it be only solemnized by the elder of the church, being against the law not to take a marriage contract, can said young people be allowed to move together as married people and held as members in the church, if not willing to take a marriage contract? (b) And if said young people as members will take a marriage contract can they have their own choice, either take it by the state-priest or by the government, or shall they take it by the government? (Please give Scripture as ground for all consideration.)

Answer: We decide that our dear brethren and sisters in Denmark and Sweden shall take their marriage contract by the government. Rom. 13: 1.

**Report of the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee  
of the German Baptist Brethren Church to the Annual  
Meeting, Held at Muncie, Indiana, May 23rd to  
25th, 1893.**

Under the favor of our Heavenly Father, the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee have been enabled, during the year ending April 1, 1893, to carry forward that part of the work of the church entrusted to them, of which the following is a report:

**MISSIONS IN EUROPE.**

Denmark.—There are three congregations in this field. First,



that which includes Sjolland and Copenhagen has one elder and twenty members. During the year two hundred and sixteen sermons were preached, one was baptized, one received by letter, and one emigrated to America and two to Sweden. Second, Thyland, which has no resident minister, but is supplied from the North Denmark congregation. This church has three deacons and twenty-three members; six were received by baptism, two emigrated to America, and one was expelled. Third, Northern Denmark, which has two elders and one minister in the first degree, and fifty-six members. One hundred and eighty-six meetings were held, three baptized, one was received by letter, one emigrated to America, and two died. As a total for Denmark there are three elders, one minister in the first degree, six deacons, and ninety-nine members. Four hundred and two sermons were preached, ten were received by baptism and two by letter, six emigrated, one was expelled, and two died.

Sweden.—A full report of what has been done in Sweden is not at hand, but from what is known, a number of accessions have been made during the year. The new meeting-house at Wanneberga was completed last fall and dedicated on Christmas, at which time a love-feast was held. As they worshiped under their own vine and fig-tree the members rejoiced and thanked God for his grace and the brethren and sisters in America for their help. During the winter there was a number of accessions at Lulea. One deacon was elected and the outlook is favorable towards organizing a church before long.

#### HOME MISSION WORK BY THE GENERAL MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

Idaho and Washington.—The church here is growing. Eld. Sidney Hodgden and wife labored with her and held one hundred and thirty-seven meetings, four council-meetings and three love-feasts. Seven were received by baptism. The Committee continues Bro. Hodgden in this field.

Louisiana.—Eld. S. A. Honberger and wife had the care of this field the past year. One hundred meetings, four council-meetings, and two love-feasts were held. Five were received by baptism and five by letter; one moved away and one was disowned. The congregation is large enough to justify the building of a meeting-house which will be completed this season. New points in the surrounding country are opening up.

Kentucky.—Since the last report brethren I. J. Rosenberger and A. S. Culp each visited this field once. In all twenty-six meet-



# Home Mission Work by District Committees.

DISTRICTS.	On hand at beginning.	Raised in District.	From General Board.	Expended during the year.	Mission points.	Sermons.	Baptized.
California, .....	\$ 40 11	\$ 140 05	\$ 100 05	\$ 113 00	3 00	3 102	1
Northern Illinois, .....	..	691 84	..	815 22	4 00	..	..
Southern Illinois, .....	160 49	315 49	..	469 81	10 10	117	..
Northern Indiana, .....	369 66	299 18	..	175 95	6 16	96	2
Middle Indiana, .....	138 28	276 26	..	147 36	4 4	70	3
Southern Indiana, .....	95 89	520 86	200	299 54	4 4	78	15
Northern Iowa and Dakota, .....	160 00	285 43	500	733 99	..	..	13
Middle Iowa, .....	153 88	84 21	..	128 76	3 3	33	2
Southern Iowa, .....	26 31	3 55	200	201 80	3 3	..	..
Northwestern Kansas and Colorado, .....	261 14	110 07	150	223 63	7 7	260	8
Northeastern Kansas, .....	95 85	67 11	..	71 86	7 7	..	11
Southeastern Kansas, .....	29 12	65 07	..	45 53	4 4	41	4
Southwestern Kansas and Colorado, .....	28 03	288 16	100	251 26	..	..	..
Western Maryland, .....	503 73	165 88	..	232 97	6 6	..	56
Eastern Maryland, .....	6 50	87 12	..	80 22	5 5	96	5
Michigan, .....	43 43	77 82	50	126 30	2 2	..	4
Northern Missouri, .....	102 45	123 79	100	232 74	7 7	171	22
Middle Missouri, .....	163 07	102 22	175	393 23	8 8	245	20
Southern Missouri, .....	84 24	39 53	..	73 55	..	..	..
Nebraska, .....	180 20	105 76	400	656 12	14 14	337	36
Northwestern Ohio, .....	6 52	182 30	..	129 01	6 6	..	3
Northeastern Ohio, .....	26 16	301 57	..	198 25	3 3	..	..
Southern Ohio, .....	248 70	292 42	..	244 58	5 5	203	9
Western Pennsylvania, .....	98 62	48 42	..	48 50	3 3	..	..
Middle Pennsylvania, .....	173 00	142 78	..	126 18	4 4	46	1
Southern Pennsylvania (just organized), .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eastern Pennsylvania, .....	475 22	327 68	25	573 66	20 20	200	12
Tennessee, .....	75 05	79 04	200	286 48	7 7	234	37
Texas, Oklahoma and Indian Territory, .....	26 70	20 75	425	341 05	8 8	..	5
First District of Virginia, .....	..	712 48	100	910 70	24 24	328	101
Second District of Virginia, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
First District of West Virginia, .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Second District of West Virginia, .....	91 00	2 50	100	11 50	2 2	17	2
Oregon and Washington, .....	446 15	50 25	..	336 75	..	..	8
Total, .....	\$4309 50	\$6009 51	\$2820	\$8679 50	179	2665	380



ings and one council-meeting were held, and one was received by baptism. The great need here is a resident minister.

Arkansas.—Within the past year Bro. Aaron I. Mow was placed at Palestine, Ark. Although he has been there only a short time he speaks encouragingly of the work and the outlook.

Washington City.—This mission, although meeting some discouragements, will be continued for the present. The Eastern District of Maryland is requested to take charge of the work there.

Among the Scandinavians in the United States.—Under the direction of the District Mission Boards of several of the Western States, Eld. C. Hope held a number of meetings among the Scandinavian members. His labors were appreciated by many.

Canada.—Eld. D. E. Brubaker visited this field last fall and held twenty-four meetings; but there is little hope for much progress until some difficulties are removed.

#### Assistance to State Districts.

Eastern Pennsylvania, .....	\$ 78 30
Tennessee, .....	200 00
Michigan, .....	50 00
Northern Missouri, .....	100 00
Middle Missouri, .....	175 00
Southwestern Kansas, Colorado and No Man's Land, .....	100 00
Texas, Oklahoma, and Indian Territory, .....	100 00
California, .....	100 00
Nebraska, .....	150 00
Northwestern Kansas and Colorado, .....	150 00
Northern Missouri, .....	200 00

#### Meeting-houses.—Donations.

Middle Missouri, Spring Branch church, .....	\$150 00
Southern Indiana, New Hope church, .....	200 00
Texas, Oklahoma, Indian Territory, Pomona church, .....	200 00
Northern Iowa and Dakota, Kingsley church, .....	150 00
Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, Chippewa church, .....	100 00
Southwestern Kansas, Colorado, etc., Prairie View church, ....	200 00
Second District of West Virginia, Braxton County church, ....	100 00
First District of Virginia, Henry County church, .....	100 00
First District of Michigan, Sugar Ridge church, .....	100 00

#### Meeting-houses.—Loans.

Esterly church, Louisiana, .....	\$200 00
Southern Missouri, Nevada church, .....	300 00
Northern Illinois, Chippewa church, .....	100 00



Southwestern Kansas and Colorado, Prairie View church, .....	\$100 00
Southwestern Kansas and Colorado, Monte Vista church, .....	150 00
First District of Michigan, Sugar Ridge church, .....	100 00
First District of West Virginia, Braxton County church, .....	100 00
Southern Missouri, Dry Fork church, .....	300 00

## Summary.

Assistance to State Districts, .....	9
Donations for Meeting-houses, .....	9
Loans for Meeting-houses, .....	8
Members Received by Baptism (Not all Reported), .....	23

## Receipts and Expenditures.

## Receipts.

1892

April 1, Balance on Hand, .....	\$ 642 27
July 4, Quarter's Receipts ending June 30, .....	2,285 01
Oct. 5, Quarter's Receipts ending Sept. 30, .....	1,465 45

1893

Jan. 9, Quarter's Receipts ending Dec. 31, .....	1,895 94
April 1, Quarter's Receipts ending March 31, .....	2,681 67
Loans of Mission Fund Paid Back, .....	579 34
Loans to churches not used and returned, .....	250 00
Donations to churches not used and returned, .....	700 00
John Olsson on his home, .....	81 76

Total, .....\$10,581 44

## Expenditures.

Assistance to State Districts, .....	\$1,203 30
Donations for Meeting-houses, .....	1,200 00
Loans for Meeting-houses, .....	850 00
Mission in Sweden, .....	942 50
Mission in Denmark, .....	404 40
Mission in Idaho, .....	262 70
Mission in Louisiana, .....	271 90
Mission in Kentucky, .....	23 32
Mission in Arkansas, .....	80 78
Mission in Canada, .....	66 64
Mission in Washington City, .....	327 54
Mission among Scandinavians in America, .....	121 20
Stocking and Running Mission Farm, Covina, California, .....	1,703 19
Expense on Endowment Fund, .....	378 43
Postage and Stationery, Seal, Printing, Etc., .....	53 45
Traveling Expenses of Committee, .....	52 75
Missionary Gospel Messengers, .....	26 00
Secretary's Salary, .....	150 00
Loan to Endowment Fund, .....	1,000 00
Refunded on Riley Will, .....	245 62
Paid to Endowment Fund, .....	25 00
Cash on Hand, .....	1,192 72

Total, .....\$10,581 44



Endowment Fund.

Bequest Notes, Non-interest-bearing, .....	\$18,100 00
Bequest Notes, Interest-bearing, .....	34,005 00
Mt. Morris College Stock (Donated), .....	200 00
An Estate Estimated at, .....	5,000 00
Real Estate, .....	62,000 00
Loans of Endowment Fund, .....	9,395 00
Cash on Hand, .....	1,431 36
<hr/>	
Total, .....	\$130,131 36
Less Amount Borrowed, .....	8,000 00
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Total Endowment, .....	\$122,131 36
Amount at the Close of Last Year, .....	69,838 88
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Increase, .....	\$ 52,292 48

Amounts Given by States and Territories.

Illinois, .....	\$1,920 98	Arizona, .....	\$ 10 00
Pennsylvania, .....	1,089 52	Florida, .....	9 24
Ohio, .....	854 25	Idaho, .....	8 75
Iowa, .....	604 71	Colorado, .....	4 85
Indiana, .....	473 85	Oklahoma, .....	2 00
Kansas, .....	209 04	Georgia, .....	1 75
Maryland, .....	150 60	North Dakota, .....	1 55
California, .....	112 88	Part Surplus of A. M. of	
Nebraska, .....	80 75	'91, .....	540 00
West Virginia, .....	76 09	Surplus of 1892, (two-	
Virginia, .....	36 50	thirds), .....	298 00
Texas, .....	33 60	Estates, .....	359 82
Missouri, .....	30 75	Children's Mission, ....	142 65
Tennessee, .....	29 87	Interest on Loans, Miss.	
Denmark and Sweden, ..	28 59	Fund, .....	106 12
Minnesota, .....	28 25	Interest on Loans, End.	
Michigan, .....	21 20	Fund, .....	731 10
Louisiana, .....	19 62	Two-thirds Col. A. M.,	
Canada, .....	16 40	of '92, .....	244 55
Oregon, .....	11 60	Miscellaneous, .....	15 92
Kentucky, .....	11 50	<hr/>	
North Carolina, .....	11 20	Total, .....	
		\$8,328 05	

Thus the Committee reports another year's mission work. That there is an increased interest in District mission work may be seen from the table showing what has been done by each District as far as reported. While the total receipts do not show the usual increase, all over the Brotherhood, the interest in missions is growing; and, trusting in the Father of all, and depending on the co-operation of our beloved Brotherhood, the Committee presses on in the work.

Daniel Vaniman, Foreman  
D. L. Miller, Treasurer.  
Galen B. Royer, Secretary.



## Report of Auditing Committee.

We, the Committee appointed by the Annual Meeting of 1893, to audit the books of the General Church Election and Missionary Committee, find them to be correct.

I. D. Parker,  
Geo. S. Arnold,  
E. A. Miller.

**Annual Report of the Brethren's Book and Tract Work, for the  
Year Ending May 1, 1893.**

Cash balance from last year, .....	\$ 784 45
Collections on personal accounts, .....	394 22
Cash from sales of books, .....	336 72
Cash from sales of tracts, .....	115 90
Cash from sales of Golden Gleams, .....	55 25
Cash from sales of sundries, .....	14 50
Cash from paid endowment notes, .....	3,320 84
Cash from new memberships, .....	410 00
Interest on endowment notes, .....	1,786 69
Church and individual donations, including surplus from last Annual Meeting, .....	1,470 76
<hr/>	
Cash from all sources, .....	\$8,689 33

## Disbursements.

Fixtures, .....	\$ 21 10
Books, new Electrotypes, etc., .....	886 41
Printing, .....	1,254 27
Examining and Executive Committees, Stamps, Expressage, etc., .....	604 52
Agents' services, .....	1,228 29
Loaned out, .....	3,225 00
Salaries, rent, light, fuel, etc., .....	600 00
<hr/>	
Total, .....	\$7,819 59
<hr/>	
Cash balance on hand, .....	\$ 869 74

## Loss and Gain.

Accounts and fixtures, \$ 49 74	Golden Gleams, Bibles
Endowment refund, .... 629 38	and Books, .....\$ 832 70
Agents' services, ..... 1,228 29	Tracts, ..... 370 28
Expense and printing, .. 1,958 79	Donations, ..... 1,470 76
Church refund, ..... 99 58	Interest, ..... 1,786 69
Salaries and sundries, .. 504 80	Surplus, ..... 10 15
<hr/>	
Total, .....\$4,470 58	Total, .....\$4,470 58



## Present Resources.

Cash on hand, .....	\$ 869 74
Golden Gleams, per inventory, .....	208 00
Bibles and books, .....	401 51
Tracts, .....	457 00
Fixtures and new Electrotypes, .....	409 20
Bills receivable, .....	60,424 32
Loans on surplus, .....	1,800 00
Outstanding accounts receivable, .....	360 60
Total, .....	\$64,930 37

## Liabilities.

Personal accounts payable, .....	\$ 64 57
Surplus fund, .....	2,515 14
Endowment fund, .....	62,350 66
Total, .....	\$64,930 37
Endowment fund May 1, 1893, .....	62,350 66
Endowment fund May 1, 1892, .....	53,437 33
Increase of Endowment fund, .....	\$ 8,913 33
Present worth, to which may be added unpaid interest, ....	\$64,930 37

Samuel Bock, Sec. and Treas.,  
Dayton, Ohio.

## Explanation and Other Information.

Deducting from the Sum of Cash, .....	\$3,320 86
Received from paid Endowment Notes and, .....	410 00
Received for New Memberships, a total of, .....	3,730 86
Which sum cannot be expended, we have remaining, .....	4,958 49
Take from this the endowment refund, .....	629 38
And the church refund, .....	99 58
And there remains, .....	4,229 53

The total sum contributed by the local churches the past year is small and shows a falling off from last year's contribution from the same source of about one hundred dollars, which, after deducting the rebate as above, leaves but five hundred dollars, only a little more than one-fourth the amount contributed by individual donors including interest on endowment notes. Five hundred dollars of the amount remaining in the hands of the Treasurer belongs to the endowment fund, which leaves but a small available sum above the loaned out surplus, with which to begin the present year's work.

The expenses were considerably higher this year than they



were last year, because of extra cost incident to the revision of the tracts and the necessity of new electrotypes for those published.

The amount contributed by the local churches is surely very much below what it should have been, especially as that is the original source of support, and from the best information obtained by the Committee, must in a great measure be attributed to a lack of interest in the work and the management of a large proportion of the local congregations.

Only about one-third of the whole number have contributed funds the past year. If each elder or overseer would encourage the work and appoint solicitors in their respective charges, donations from this source as originally designed, would, we believe, very readily be increased three or four fold. This course of action would not only be in accordance with the constitution of the work, but also with 1 Cor. 16: 2, affording each person an opportunity to give for the support of this branch of Missionary Work "as God has prospered him."

The number of publications sent out the past year is somewhat less than the year before, notwithstanding the number of pages of printed matter is considerably larger. Tracts have been distributed in forty-three States and Territories, including Ontario, Canada. Thus far, only four languages have been employed: English, German, Swedish and Danish; the three latter confined to a few leading tracts. Others are called for, among which is the Greek. With more money from the churches the present year, translations and more liberal distributions both at home and in foreign lands may be accomplished.

Upon the whole the work presents many encouraging features. Missionaries have been employed in a limited way who have made house to house visits in towns, cities and country, distributing tracts and offering Gleams and books, and talking up the interests of the good cause with encouraging results. This branch of work is practically unlimited in its application and should be greatly encouraged both at home and abroad. Let more abundant means be forthcoming from every quarter of the Brotherhood, and the number of workers will be increased and sent out in the Master's employ.

A number of new Tracts will be published and placed on the list the coming year.

Report of Auditing Committee for 1893.

We, the Committee appointed by Annual Meeting, have ex-



amined the report of the Book and Tract Work, and find it correct,  
Signed,

I. J. Rosenberger,  
W. K. Simmons,  
Wm. Ikenberry.

#### Report of Trustees.

The Trustees of the General Conference submit the following report for the year ending with Annual Meeting of 1893.

1. The attorneys of trustees, having charge of the Levi W. Riley bequest, have made proper distribution of the proceeds thereof, according to the will. (See Report of 1892.)

2. The church properties of Denmark and Sweden, (four in number) have been secured as far as it is possible, the deeds and mortgages of which are now on file with the trustees.

L. W. Teeter,  
Henry Frantz,  
S. R. Zug.

H. C. Early and H. C. Baker, absent.

#### Reciprocal Greeting.

Greeting:—All our churches in Denmark and Sweden, through this District Meeting, unite in sending much love, and warm greeting to the Annual Meeting, and to the whole Brotherhood in America, and give our hearty thanks for all their assistance, (and help) received from them till this day, both temporal and spiritual, for to get spread the true Gospel for saving sinners. Our Lord bless you all with a hundredfold of his good gifts in this life, and after this, eternal life in his own kingdom, is our prayer. Signed in behalf of all the Brethren churches in Denmark and Sweden, C. C. Eskildsen, elder in Hjörning, Denmark; P. C. Poulsen, elder in Fredrikshavn, Denmark; C. Hansen, elder in Copenhagen, Denmark; A. Anderson, elder in Limhamn, Sweden.

The Brethren assembled in General Conference at Muncie, Ind., send greeting to all our dear brethren and sisters in Denmark and Sweden. Your greeting of love is received, and we rejoice that our Heavenly Father continues his work of grace among you, for the extension of primitive Christianity in Europe. We pray that God may abundantly bless you and preserve you in "the faith once delivered unto the saints."

#### Committees Appointed by Annual Meeting.

Quinter church Kansas: John Zuck, Christian Holderman, and J. E. Ellenberger.



Warrensburg, Centerview and other churches in Missouri, if necessary: E. Eby, Ed Forney and D. E. Price.

West Otter Creek, Cerro Gordo and other churches, if necessary, in Southern Illinois: E. Eby, D. L. Miller and W. R. Deeter.

Roann church, Indiana: Jacob Rife, L. W. Teeter and J. H. Miller.

Gec.ge's Creek, Elk Lick, Markleysburg and other churches similarly affected in Western Pennsylvania and First District of West Virginia: S. F. Sanger, Samuel Sprankle and Daniel Hays.

Committee to Eastern Pennsylvania made its annual report and Annual Meeting decided that while it does not fully concur in all that was done, it does under existing circumstances, not censure the Committee. The Committee is continued with instruction to carry out the general order of the Brotherhood, as far as practicable, and that the Eastern District of Pennsylvania give such assistance as they can according to Minutes of Annual Meeting.

To serve on General Missionary Committee: D. L. Miller and Clarence Lahman.

Through an oversight, none were elected on the Book and Tract Committee, hence those on said Committee hold over until next Annual Meeting.

On Advisory Committee: E. Eby.

On Examining Committee of Tracts: D. L. Miller.

School Visitors: Huntingdon, Pa., Wm. Howe; Bridgewater, Va., J. P. Zigler; Mt. Morris, Ill., Geo. D. Zollers; McPherson, Kans., John Wise; Lordsburg, Cal., J. W. Metzger.

Trustees as provided for by report of Committee on consolidation of General Missionary Committee and Book and Tract Work: D. L. Miller and E. Eby, three years; S. F. Sanger and S. R. Zug, two years; S. W. Hoover, one year.

W. R. Deeter and Jesse Stutsman were appointed to visit the Mission in Canada, if so directed by the General Missionary Committee.

#### Requests for Annual Meeting.

Requests for the Annual Meeting are on file from California, Nebraska, Northern Illinois, and Western Pennsylvania.

The Annual Meeting for 1894 will be held in Western Pennsylvania.

#### A Request.

To the Brethren assembled in Annual Council at Muncie, Indiana, Greeting:



1. Whereas the citizens of Ladoga through their Town Board offered inducements to the Brethren for the establishing of a college of learning to be located in the town of Ladoga, Montgomery County, Indiana, the same to be under the control and patronage of the German Baptist Brethren after the manner and form as provided in Section 3,433-3,441 of the Revised Statutes of 1881 of the State of Indiana. And as there seems to be a general interest manifested in the Southern District of Indiana to establish a school of learning having for its object the glory of God and the education of our youth, therefore we now ask that this Annual Meeting grant us the privilege of establishing said institution of learning, and we agree that the school shall not be started until we have secured at least \$40,000 in stock. Signed,

Lewis Teeter,  
Robert Goshorn,  
L. H. Holsinger.

#### Resolutions.

Resolved, that this Annual Meeting hereby express its gratitude,

1. To the Lord for his protection and divine blessings.
2. To the Committee of Arrangements and assistants, especially the Lodging Committee, for their excellent management.
3. To the Citizen's Enterprise Company for the good buildings and accommodations.
4. To the citizens of Muncie for their hospitality.
5. To the various denominations of the city for opening their churchhouses to our membership and ministry.
6. To the Electric Street Car Company for their prompt transportation to and from the grounds.
7. To the several railroads for favors received.
8. To the police for their assistance in maintaining good order.
9. To the brethren and sisters of the Southern District of Indiana for their courtesy and labor.

#### Standing Committee for 1893.

Sidney Hodgden,	Samuel Edgecomb,	Frank McCune,
J. S. Flory,	J. S. Mohler,	John Gable,
Jacob Appleman,	Uriah Shick,	S. B. Shirky,
John Wise,	Isaiah Rairigh,	M. T. Bear,
C. S. Holsinger,	W. G. Cook,	W. M. Harvey,



John Harshbarger,  
D. E. Price,  
Geo. D. Zollers,  
W. R. Deeter,  
D. P. Shively,  
L. W. Teeter,  
S. A. Walker,

Noah Longanecker,  
Henry Frantz,  
J. S. Holsinger,  
H. B. Brumbaugh,  
Jacob Hollinger,  
C. Bucher,  
David Long,

Samuel H. Utz,  
Jeremiah Thomas,  
D. J. Miller,  
P. S. Miller,  
S. F. Sanger,  
J. P. Zeigler,  
J. G. Royer.

John Wise,  
Reading Clerk.  
J. G. Royer,  
Writing Clerk.  
D. E. Price,  
Moderator.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1894.

Meyersdale, Pa.

The Standing Committee organized by electing Bro. Enoch Eby, of Kansas, Moderator; Bro. L. W. Teeter, of Indiana, Reading Clerk; and Bro. J. H. Moore, of Illinois, Writing Clerk.

The General Conference was opened at 9 A. M., May 29, by appropriate devotional exercises.

### Unfinished Business.

1. The following deferred plan to relieve church officials who do not labor to edification was taken up and adopted:

We, the undersigned Committee, appointed by last Annual Meeting to present to this Meeting a plan to relieve elders and ministers from office when the church is fully satisfied that their official labors are not to edification, respectfully submit the following:

1. In congregations where there seems to be a general sentiment that the official labors of any elder, minister or deacon, are not and can not be made profitable to the church, the deacons may, on the annual visit, without using any influence either for or against, get the preference of the members in reference to continuing such brother in office.

If there be found a preponderance of sentiment against continuing his official labors, let the facts be stated in writing to the elders at District Meeting.

If a majority of the elders at District Meeting concur in their sentiment they shall appoint a committee of elders, who shall re-



quest such brother to ask the church to relieve him of his office, giving him the reasons for it.

If he will not do this, then said committee shall, at a legally-called council in the church where his membership is, give the church an opportunity to express her wish concerning his continuance in office.

2. When in any way a majority of the elders at the District Meeting have become fully satisfied that the official labors of any officer in the District are not to edification, but rather a hindrance than a help to the church, they shall appoint a committee of elders to proceed the same as above stated.

3. If any officer in the State District for any reason does not wish to serve the church in official capacity, he may state his reasons in writing to the elders at District Meeting.

If a majority of the elders consider his reasons of sufficient importance to require attention, they shall appoint a committee of elders to meet the church where his membership is, in council, and after giving the reason assigned, the church may relieve him of his office, provided a majority of the church and of the elders present consider it best to do so.

4. Where any officer in a State District persists in a course not in harmony with the usages and general order of the Brotherhood as defined by Annual Meeting, to such an extent that a majority of the elders at District Meeting consider his official labors rather a hindrance than a help to the Brotherhood, they shall appoint a committee of elders to labor privately with him, and if he will not heed their admonitions, they shall give him an opportunity to have a fair trial before the church where his membership is.

If he refuses to be tried, or persists in being insubordinate when tried, they may, whether favored by a majority of his church or not, depose him from office, and such action shall be respected by all the churches until it be overruled by a committee from Annual Meeting, or he be reinstated by a majority of the church where his membership is; favored also by a majority of the elders of the district.

John Wise, Enoch Eby, Daniel Vaniman.

2. Whereas the order of the German Baptist Brethren concerning the taking of likenesses of and by members seems to be disregarded by many of our members, even such as are prominent in the missionary cause, and by sad experience we learn that such behavior has a tendency to cripple the efforts to raise money for missionary purposes in those churches that have still been loyal to the non-conforming principles of the Brotherhood; we, therefore, ask District Meeting of Eastern Pennsylvania to urge



the elders of their respective churches to enforce Art. 21 of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1869. Classified Minutes, p. 295.

Answer: Whereas decisions now on the Minutes are so full and conclusive on the likeness question, we cannot see the propriety of adding to or taking from decisions already made; therefore we advise and urge all members, and especially elders and ministers, to so reverence the advice of our old brethren that they give no offense.

#### Queries.

1. Whereas, the railroad companies of this country propose to provide the ministers of the different churches with orders for tickets at one-half the regular fare, and

Whereas, the ministers of the Brethren (German Baptist) church have been refused these orders on the ground that they have other occupations bearing remuneration, therefore:

Resolved, that the Huntingdon church ask District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting to appoint a committee to memorialize the United Passenger Association, requesting it to change the rules governing the granting of these orders, or so modify them as not to exclude the ministers of our church, and set forth the following reasons or any other reason to Annual Meeting as the committee so appointed may deem best.

(a) That, although our labors are humble, we do not like to stand excluded from the Christian Ministry of America by said railroad companies.

(b) That we give our ministerial labors to the world free of cost, and without remuneration.

(c) That our occupations are not intended to supplement a salary for preaching, and thus add to worldly wealth.

(d) That the few ministers who have "no other occupation" and who can conscientiously sign the applications for orders, for these privileges generally have an independent competency; hence the discrimination is in favor of the rich and against the poor.

(e) That our duties as ministers frequently call us into remote parts of our congregations, which cover large areas of country, and also into other congregations requiring frequent use of roads in performance of our church work.

(f) That although we have other occupations, our ministers have made it a rule when such orders have been granted, to use them only for purposes contemplated in the granting of the orders.

Answer: The petition was granted, and the following committee appointed to confer with the railroad associations concern-



ing the granting of half-fare permits to all of our ministers: D. L. Miller, E. W. Stoner, and S. W. Hoover.

2. Will not Annual Meeting omit the public reading of the report of the Mission Board and Tract Work and have only the auditing reports read?

Answer: We decide to make no change.

3. In the grand and noble effort, now under contemplation by the church, of extending the great Gospel work into foreign mission fields for the results of which the Brotherhood will be responsible, and whereas the results largely depend upon the fitness of the missionaries sent, therefore will not this Annual Meeting decide that no brother shall be eligible to a foreign mission field unless he has had at least five years' experience in the ministry, or not less than three years' experience in frontier mission work,—“not a novice,” and let these also be proved (First Timothy, third chapter), and that he also is in full sympathy with the general order of the Brotherhood on the doctrine of nonconformity?

Answer: While we favor experience and proficiency on the part of a missionary, we do not consider the number of years that he has served in the ministry as being a matter of importance respecting his qualifications.

4. Inasmuch as some of the brethren when laying on hands in baptism, do not pray for the gift of the Holy Ghost (see Acts 2: 38; 8: 15, 17; 19: 6), and since Annual Conference gives the course and form of words, and recommends the same for adoption in all the churches (see “Revised Minutes,” page 155), would it not be advisable to instruct brethren, when authorized to baptize, to pray for the gift of the Holy Ghost when they lay on hands in baptism?

Answer: We believe it right for brethren, when laying on hands in baptism, to ask that the baptized receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

5. Inasmuch as Art. 14 of Minutes of Annual Meeting of 1877, concerning the use of musical instruments in private houses is differently understood and differently interpreted by our brethren, some understanding said article to justify a test of fellowship in congregations where they cause offense and trouble, while others contend that it does not, we, the members of the Manchester church (Indiana), earnestly request Annual Meeting of 1894, through District Meeting of Middle Indiana, to tell us whether local congregations have the authority, according to the article referred to, to make it a test of fellowship where the use of instruments, such as organs and pianos, causes offense and trouble.



Answer: While this Conference does not mean to justify or encourage the use of musical instruments in private houses, we do not consider that the decision referred to justifies expulsion, only in case of an improper use of the instrument.

6. Macoupin Creek church asks Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, whether churches have a right to call on the county for financial aid to help support their poor members.

Answer: We consider it not right to call on the county for aid in support of our poor.

7. Macoupin Creek church petitions Annual Meeting of 1894, through District Meeting, to require all District Meetings to demand of their local churches to send no delegate to District Meeting who is not in the order of the Brethren in uniformity of dress, and in the wearing of the hair and beard, and who indulges in the habit of using tobacco.

Answer: The petition is hereby granted.

8. We ask Annual Meeting to appoint a committee to report to next Annual Meeting a plan for more efficiently carrying on city mission work, and properly guard the same.

Answer: Referred to the General Missionary and Tract Committee to report a plan to the next Annual Meeting.

9. We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to reconsider Art. 2 of 1893, and change it to read as follows: "That General Mission Board shall not send any brother or sister to foreign countries to do mission or church work, without first obtaining the consent of the local church and of the ordained elders present at the State District Meeting, in which the missionaries live, as to their qualifications; consent to be obtained by the officers of District Meeting, then also obtain consent of Standing Committee and approval of Annual Meeting. And that no brother or sister be allowed to go for the above purpose in the name of the Brotherhood without being sent as above."

Answer: The request is granted, with the understanding that the General Missionary Committee shall not be delayed in their present work in sending out missionaries.

10. Will the District of Southwestern Kansas and Southern Colorado ask Annual Meeting of 1894 to reconsider article 2 of 1875 and article 30 of 1877, and reconcile them, or explain. Can we call a baptism valid when performed in a wrong place, and for which we have no Scriptural precedent? And also clearly define our Gospel privilege on pool or tank baptism.



Answer: We recommend and urge that baptism be performed in running water if it be reasonably convenient. If this cannot be had, then the baptism may be performed in out-door pools, tanks, or reservoirs.

11. We, the Brethren of the Slate Creek congregation, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to instruct all delegates to Annual Meeting and all delegates to District Meeting to vote the sentiments of the congregation which they represent, when the sentiments of the congregation are known. See Acts 15: 12, 22, 28; Matt. 28: 8; 1 Pet. 5: 3.

Answer: While delegates should have due respect for the wishes of the congregations sending them, this Conference does not deem it proper to say just how a delegate shall vote.

12. Inasmuch as some churches and elders in restoring deposed ministers place them in the second degree, and even the full ministry at once, we ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to instruct all churches to restore deposed ministers step by step, first, second, and third, as they are at first called to the ministry.

Answer: We decide to leave this question to the discretion of the individual congregations and adjoining elders.

Report of the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee of the German Baptist Brethren Church to the Annual Meeting held at Meyersdale, Pa., May 29 to 31, 1894.

The General Church Erection and Missionary Committee hereby makes its final report of work, which, under the blessings of God, it has been able to do during the year ending March 31, 1894.

European Missions.

CHURCHES.	Elders.	Ministers.	Deacons.	Members.	Meetings held.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Emigrated.	Disowned.
Vensyssel, Denmark, .....	2	1	3	56	166	3	1	3	1
Thyland, Denmark, .....	...	...	3	24	...	1	...	...	...
Sjolland, Denmark, .....	1	...	...	8	157	...	...	11	1
Malmo and Linhamn, Sweden, ....	1	...	3	26	55	...	1	...	...
Kjeflinge, Sweden, .....	...	1	...	21	60	13	...	...	...
Vanneberga, Sweden, .....	...	...	1	32	...	5	...	...	7
Lulea, Sweden, .....	1	1	1	20	160	13	...	...	1
Total, .....	5	3	11	187	598	35	2	14	10

Home Mission Work by the General Mission Board.

Idaho and Washington.—Eld. Sidney Hodgden continued his



labors in this field until October, 1893, when he returned to his home in Kansas. While there during this year he held 127 meetings, 5 council-meetings and 1 love-feast. Four were received by baptism and 4 by letter. The Committee has placed this point under the care of the District Mission Board of Oregon, Idaho and Washington.

Kentucky.—Eld. A. S. Culp visited this field three times and held nine meetings including one funeral. The prospects for building up a congregation are very good, and the Committee hopes to locate Bro. Culp permanently in that field in the near future.

Arkansas.—Bro. Aaron I. Mow continues his labors here with encouraging success. He held 114 meetings, 11 council-meetings and 3 love-feasts. Eleven were received by baptism, 7 by letter and 1 restored. Holding council-meetings at different places, which really are small congregations that should have a located minister, accounts for the large number of such meetings held. More workers in this field are needed.

Louisiana.—The church here has had a very steady and good growth. Eld. S. A. Honberger held 106 meetings, 4 council-meetings and 1 love-feast. One was received by baptism and 14 by letter; 4 moved away. Bro. Honberger, at the direction of the Committee, spent some time and labor with a few members at Swaengin, Ala. At present it does not seem advisable to open a mission at this place.

Washington, D. C.—The work of which this is a report began last June. Since that date Bro. Lyon held 74 meetings, having an average attendance of 27. Four were received by baptism. The total membership in the city is 24. The work is much retarded because the church does not own its own house of worship. People in the city have an aversion for worshiping in halls. To meet in Bro. Lyon's home does not give the impression of permanency of the work; hence the Committee has decided to make a special effort to raise funds to build a plain house of worship. This is greatly needed, and it is hoped that the brethren and sisters will respond liberally.

Germantown, Pa.—At the request of the Mission Board of Eastern Pennsylvania the Committee, at the suggestion of the Committee from Annual Meeting to the churches in Eastern Pennsylvania, located Bro. G. N. Falkenstein at this place. He has been laboring faithfully for one year. Recently two were received into the church by baptism.



### Home Mission Work by District Missionary Committees.

This is omitted in this report because the Committee was unable to get returns from all the Districts in time. The report will appear, if possible, in the July number of the Brethren's Missionary Visitor.

### The Brethren's Missionary Visitor.

After a careful consideration the Committee has thought it best to begin the publication of a paper in the interests of the mission work of the church. They have done this because Annual Meeting has authorized them to publish quarterly or oftener a report of their work. As a paper can be mailed cheaper than a report, and there is need of education in the line of missions, it was considered prudent to begin the publication. The Committee publishes it, the Brethren's Publishing Company print it at cost, and all the profits, if any, are turned into the mission work of the church. It is hoped that every brother and sister will take an interest in the paper by subscribing and getting others to subscribe. Subscription price, 25 cents per year.

#### Assistance to State Districts.

Northeastern Kansas, ...\$ 50 00	Middle Missouri, .....\$ 50 00
Northwestern Kansas, ... 150 00	Southern Missouri, ..... 50 00
Southwestern Kansas, ... 125 00	Nebraska, ..... 100 00
Texas, ..... 250 00	California, ..... 100 00
Middle Iowa, ..... 100 00	Total, .....\$1,175 00
Northern Missouri, ..... 200 00	

#### Assistance for Building Meetinghouses.—Donations.

Eden Valley church, Kansas, .....\$150 00
Bethany church, West Virginia, ..... 100 00
Cedar Rapids church, Iowa, ..... 350 00
Cedar County church, Iowa, ..... 150 00
Sugar Ridge church, Michigan, ..... 100 00
Total, .....\$850 00

#### Assistance for Building Meetinghouses.—Loans.

Braxton County church, West Virginia, .....\$100 00
Union church, Virginia, ..... 75 00
Sugar Ridge church, Michigan, ..... 100 00
Golden Springs church, Nebraska, ..... 200 00
Total, .....\$475 00

#### Summary.

Assistance to State Districts, .....10
Donations for building meetinghouses, ..... 5



Loans for building meetinghouses, .....	4
Members received by baptism, .....	56

### Home and European Mission Fund.

#### Receipts.

Balance on hand from last report, .....	\$1,192 72
General contributions, .....	\$4,423 26
Interest from Endowment Notes, .....	1,237 49
Interest from Loans of Endowment Fund, .....	607 50
Interest from Loans of Mission Fund, .....	124 73
Bills Receivable, Cedar Creek church, Kansas, .....	100 00
Bills Receivable, Rock Grove church, Iowa, .....	150 00
Bills Receivable, Mansfield church, Missouri, .....	24 00
Bills Receivable, Endowment Fund, .....	1,032 64
India Mission Endowment, .....	50 00
<hr/>	
Total receipts, .....	\$7,749 62
<hr/>	
	\$8,942 34

#### Expenditures.

Assistance to State Districts, .....	\$1,175 00
Donations for building meetinghouses, .....	850 00
Loans for building meetinghouses, .....	475 00
Mission in Denmark, .....	630 73
Mission in Sweden, .....	595 39
Mission in Louisiana, .....	253 60
Mission in Idaho, .....	234 53
Mission in Arkansas, .....	130 80
Mission in Kentucky, .....	16 90
Mission in Washington, D. C., .....	592 41
Mission in Germantown, Pa., .....	310 48
Expenses, Taxes, etc., Endowment Funds, .....	306 89
Work of consolidating the Committee, .....	187 14
Attorney's fees and other expenses, .....	106 56
Expense of Committee to Eastern Pennsylvania, .	83 97
Traveling expenses of Committee, .....	278 80
Tracts and Missionary Messengers, .....	47 25
Postage and stationery, .....	47 22
Expenses of Traveling Secretary, .....	20 00
Secretary's salary, .....	150 00
Returned for Western Sufferers, .....	12 00
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Total expenditures, .....	\$6,504 67
Cash on hand, .....	2,437 67
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	\$8,942 34

### India Mission Fund.

Total receipts to May 1, 1894, .....	\$3,485 41
Loaned, .....	3,000 00
<hr/>	
Balance on hand, .....	\$ 485 41



## Endowment Fund.

Request Notes, .....	\$ 33,985 00
Cash Paid Endowment, .....	18,795 36
Real Estate, .....	47,500 00
Stocks, .....	10,600 00
Total, .....	\$110,880 36

## Receipts According to States.

1. Illinois, .....	\$1,830 95	24. North Carolina, ....	\$ 16 00
2. Pennsylvania, .....	1,349 56	25. Tennessee, .....	15 50
3. Ohio, .....	1,307 48	26. South Dakota, .....	15 10
4. Indiana, .....	897 70	27. Arkansas, .....	12 00
5. Iowa, .....	782 45	28. Kentucky, .....	9 00
6. Kansas, .....	379 21	29. Texas, .....	3 50
7. Maryland, .....	208 25	30. North Dakota, ....	2 30
8. Nebraska, .....	159 54	31. Washington, D. C., ..	1 71
9. Virginia, .....	124 31	32. Oklahoma and No	
10. California, .....	117 35	Man's Land, .....	1 60
11. Missouri, .....	105 87	33. Washington, .....	50
12. West Virginia, ....	104 72	Unclassified, .....	130 81
13. Michigan, .....	68 21	Children's Mission, .	47 00
14. Minnesota, .....	54 50	Annual Meeting col.,	423 56
15. Colorado, .....	46 96	Part surplus of A. M.,	112 88
16. Idaho, .....	43 06	Rent St. Louis meet-	
17. Florida, .....	35 26	inghouse, .....	582 75
18. Arizona, .....	32 40	Interest, Loans Mis-	
19. Ontario, Canada, ....	30 00	sion Fund, .....	124 73
20. Europe, .....	28 93	Interest, Loans En-	
21. Louisiana, .....	25 19	dowment Fund,	477 50
22. Oregon, .....	23 00	Total, .....	\$9,748 39
23. New Jersey, .....	17 05		

This completes the work for the General Church Erection and Missionary Committee. Already its successor, the General Missionary and Tract Committee, has taken up the labor. A complete statement of all the receipts and expenditures for the past ten years was published in the April number of the Visitor, and because of its length not given here. Those who would like to know where and how the money has been spent (and who should not be interested in that?) will please turn to that report for the information. The Committee closes its labors with the consciousness of having done the best it could, and now prays that the new Committee may be given wisdom and means to carry forward the cause to greater and more glorious results for God and humanity.

Daniel Vaniman, Foreman.

D. L. Miller, Treasurer.

Galen B. Royer, Secretary.



### Report of Auditing Committee.

We, the Committee appointed by Annual Meeting of 1894 to audit the foregoing account for the year ending March 31, 1894, do find it to be correct.

W. D. Tisdale,  
W. S. Reichard,  
T. C. Denton.

Accepted.

### Annual Report of the Brethren's Book and Tract Work for the Year Ending May 1, 1894.

#### Receipts.

Cash balance from last year, .....	\$ 869 74
Collections on personal accounts, .....	388 38
Cash from sales of books, .....	398 42
Cash from sales of tracts, .....	106 06
Cash from sales of Golden Gleams, .....	16 05
Cash from sales of sundries, .....	12 39
Cash from paid Endowment Notes, .....	1,930 00
Cash from new memberships, .....	95 00
Interest on Endowment Notes and Loans, .....	2,370 90
Church and individual donations, including surplus from last Annual Meeting, .....	718 35
Cash from all sources, .....	<u>\$6,905 29</u>

#### Disbursements.

Books, new electrotypes, etc., .....	\$ 993 32
Printing, .....	680 54
Examining and Executive Committee, stamps, expressage, etc., .....	672 48
Agents' services, .....	771 86
Loaned out, .....	1,600 00
Salaries, help in office, etc., .....	550 00
Total, .....	<u>\$5,268 20</u>
Cash balance on hand, .....	1,637 09

#### Loss and Gain.

Pamphlets, .....	\$ 122 31	Golden Gleams, Bibles and Books, .....	\$ 458 21
Accounts and fixtures, ..	91 68	Tracts and sundries, ...	460 43
Endowment refund, ....	911 68	Donations, .....	718 35
Agents' services, .....	771 86	Interest, .....	2,370 90
Expense and printing, ..	1,404 16		<u>\$4,007 89</u>
Church refund, .....	57 42		
Salaries, .....	500 00		
Surplus, .....	148 78		
	<u>\$4,007 89</u>		



## Present Resources.

Cash on hand, .....	\$ 1,637 09
Golden Gleams, per inventory, .....	163 90
Bibles and books, .....	279 38
Tracts, .....	531 99
Fixtures and electrotypes, .....	363 35
Bills receivable, .....	64,459 93
Loans on surplus, .....	1,800 00
Outstanding accounts receivable, .....	250 97

Total, .....\$69,486 61

## Liabilities.

Personal accounts payable, .....	\$ 11 42
Surplus Fund, .....	4,590 26
Endowment Fund, .....	64,884 93

Total, .....\$69,486 61

Samuel Bock, Secretary and Treasurer.

## Report of Auditing Committee.

The above report audited and found to be correct.

W. D. Tisdale,

W. S. Reichard,

T. C. Denton.

Accepted.

**A Recommendation from the General Missionary and Tract  
Committee to the Standing Committee of Annual Meet-  
ing of 1894.**

Decided to recommend to Standing Committee the plan of colonization of Scandinavians in America as passed at a meeting of the Committee January 3, 1893, and have a committee of three appointed to carry it out.

1. That the Committee does favor a colony of Scandinavian members in America.

2. That before organized they sustain the same relation to the congregation in which they are located as other members.

3. That the colony when organized into a congregation hold the same relation to adjoining congregations, to the District in which they are, and to the Annual Meeting, as other congregations hold.

4. That we recommend all Scandinavian members emigrating to America to locate in such colony.

5. That if needed we will give, through their District Mission Board, a reasonable amount for the support of a minister among them.

Galen B. Royer, Sec.



Answer: We approve the plan and project proposed, and authorize the General Missionary and Tract Committee to carry out the same to the best of their judgment.

#### **India Missionaries Approved.**

Bro. W. B. Stover and sister Mary Stover, his wife, of Waynesborough, Pa., Bro. A. W. Vaniman and sister Alice Vaniman, his wife, of Topeka, Kans., and sister Bertha Ryan, of Chicago, Ill., having been properly recommended by their respective churches, and having been examined by the Standing Committee and the General Missionary and Tract Committee, as applicants for the India Mission field, are considered suitable for the work.

Therefore, we hereby recommend them to Annual Meeting for approval, with the understanding that for the present the Missionary and Tract Committee will send only three of them.

The General Missionary and Tract Committee.

Answer: The Standing Committee unanimously unites with the General Missionary and Tract Committee in recommending the above named members to the Annual Meeting for approval. Passed the Annual Meeting by unanimous consent.

#### **Elder to Denmark and Sweden.**

The Silver Creek church of Illinois, where brother and sister D. L. Miller hold their membership, respectfully recommends them as suitable members to be sent to visit the churches in Denmark and Sweden.

L. A. Plate, Clerk.

Decision of the General Church Election and Missionary Committee and confirmed by the General Missionary and Tract Committee: "To recommend Eld. D. L. Miller and his wife to Standing Committee as the ones to visit the churches in Denmark and Sweden."

General Missionary and Tract Committee.

Answer: Received the endorsement of the Annual Meeting by unanimous consent.

#### **Auditing Committee Report.**

The following report of committee auditing the books of the Book and Tract Work was read and approved by the Annual Meeting:

We, your committee, met at the office of the Book and Tract Work May 15, 1894, to audit their books as directed by Annual Meeting of 1893. We report as follows:



May 1, 1886.	
Secretary's report, cash balance, .....	\$ 289 50
Committee's report, cash balance, .....	289 50
May 1, 1887.	
Secretary's report, cash balance, .....	\$ 403 76
Committee's report, cash balance, .....	328 55
May 1, 1888.	
Secretary's report, cash balance, .....	\$ 166 15
Committee's report, cash balance, .....	209 56
May 1, 1889.	
Secretary's report, cash balance, .....	\$ 591 64
Committee's report, cash balance, .....	616 71
May 1, 1890.	
Secretary's report, cash balance, .....	\$1,067 76
Committee's report, cash balance, .....	999 10
May 1, 1891.	
Secretary's report, cash balance, .....	\$ 509 11
Committee's report, cash balance, .....	561 44
May 1, 1892.	
Secretary's report, cash balance, .....	\$ 784 45
Committee's report, cash balance, .....	784 45
May 1, 1893.	
Secretary's report, cash balance, .....	\$ 869 74
Committee's report, cash balance, .....	869 74
May 1, 1894.	
Secretary's report, cash balance, .....	\$1,637 09
Committee's report, cash balance, .....	1,637 09

#### Summary.

May 1, 1887, balance in favor of Tract Committee, .....	\$ 75 21
May 1, 1888, balance against Tract Committee, .....	43 41
May 1, 1889, balance against Tract Committee, .....	25 07
May 1, 1890, balance in favor of Tract Committee, .....	68 66
May 1, 1891, balance against Tract Committee, .....	52 33
Total balance in favor of Tract Committee, .....	143 87
Total balance against Tract Committee, .....	120 81
Final balance in favor of Tract Committee, .....	23 06

Signed by the Committee: I. J. Rosenberger, I. Bennett Trout,  
L. A. Bookwalter.

#### Reciprocal Greeting.

To the Annual Meeting of the Brethren in America, of 1894.  
From our District Meeting for Denmark and Sweden, held in  
"Bethel" in Hordum Thyland, Denmark, March 25 and 26, 1894.  
Greeting:—

We have no question this year from our District Meeting to  
send to Annual Meeting, but all our churches in Denmark and  
Sweden, through this District Meeting, unite in sending much love  
and warm greeting to the Annual Meeting and to the whole Broth-



erhood in America, giving our hearty thanks for all their assistance, helps and sympathy, both temporal and spiritual, received from them till this day, for the spread of the true Gospel in our country for saving sinners. We commend ourselves to our dear Brethren in America, and hope to receive their sympathy still in time to come, and are willing to labor with the whole Brotherhood as "one body and one spirit" even as we, with you are called in one hope of our calling. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

May a rich blessing from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, is our prayer.

Signed in behalf of all the Brethren churches in Denmark and Sweden, as a district, by

C. C. Eskildsen, elder in Hjorring, Denmark.  
 P. C. Paulsen, elder in Frederikshavn, Denmark.  
 C. Hansen, elder in Roskilde Sjælland, Denmark.  
 A. Anderson, Limhamn, Sweden.

The brethren and sisters, assembled in General Conference at Meyersdale, Pa., send our greeting of love to all our dear brethren and sisters in Denmark and Sweden. Your greeting has been accepted with gladness, and we are thankful to our Heavenly Father that you enjoy that degree of love and grace and Christian fellowship that is so much desired, and our prayer is that the Lord's work may be continued among you and that you may be instruments in his hands in accomplishing much good in his name.

#### Report of Trustees.

The Trustees of the General Conference submit the following for the year ending with Annual Meeting of 1894:

June 17, 1893, received of David Bailey, Real Estate Agent, St. Louis, Mo., rentals of church property in St. Louis, for thirty-one months, .....	\$620 00
Less Commission, .....	\$ 31 00
Street-sprinkling Tax, .....	6 00
Balance, .....	583 00
July 10, 1893, Forwarded to Galen B. Royer, Secretary of the General Church, Erection and Missionary Committee, Mt. Morris, Ill., .....	\$583 00
Less Draft, .....	\$ 25
Balance, .....	582 75

L. W. Teeter, Henry Frantz, S. R. Zug, H. C. Early; (H. C. Baker, absent.)

Report accepted.



### Resolutions from Standing Committee.

The following resolutions, offered by the Standing Committee, were adopted by the Annual Meeting:

1. Resolved, that the Treasurer of the Brotherhood be required to submit to the Annual Meeting an annual report of funds received and disbursed by him.

2. Resolved, That the expenses of the Committee appointed to visit the churches in Western Pennsylvania and the First District of West Virginia be paid by the General Missionary and Tract Committee.

3. Resolved, That hereafter the Standing Committee shall meet on Thursday before the Annual Meeting at 8 A. M., and that all papers intended for the Committee, if possible, be placed in the hands of the Committee not later than Saturday morning.

4. Resolved, That the trustees of the brotherhood be instructed to deed the St. Louis property to the General Missionary and Tract Committee.

### Committees Appointed by the Annual Meeting.

Union City church, Darke Co., Ohio: L. H. Dickey, Samuel Driver, L. W. Teeter.

Mississinewa church, Delaware Co., Ind.: D. L. Miller, Jesse Stutsman, J. H. Wright.

Cedar Creek church, Anderson Co., Kans.: Daniel Vaniman, John Wise, Wm. Davis.

Mt. Hope church, Oklahoma: Enoch Eby, Geo. E. Studebaker, Abram Molsbee.

To serve on the Tract Examining Committee: Enoch Eby.

On the Messenger Advisory Committee: L. W. Teeter.

On the General Missionary and Tract Committee: S. W. Hoover.

### School Visiting Committees:

Huntingdon, Pa., Andrew Bashor.

Bridgewater, Va., J. M. Cline.

Mt. Morris, Ill., D. B. Eby, reappointed.

McPherson, Kans., Chas. M. Yearout.

Lordsburg, Cal., Peter Overholtzer, P. S. Myers in place of J. W. Metsker, resigned.

### Report of Committees.

The Committee to Eastern Pennsylvania presented an en-



couraging report and was instructed to continue its work in harmony with the principles of the Brotherhood.

The committee to visit certain churches in Western Pennsylvania and the First District of Virginia is proceeding with its work prudently, and feels sure that in time much good may be accomplished.

The School Visiting Committees presented in writing to the Standing Committee well-prepared reports of the different schools, showing that they were giving earnest and proper attention to the work entrusted to their care.

These reports were submitted to a committee of three, with instructions to consider them, and report to the next Standing Committee such suggestions and recommendations as wisdom would dictate.

#### **Calls for the Annual Meeting for 1895.**

(1) Northern Illinois. (2) Southern Illinois. (3) Northeastern Kansas, Southwestern Kansas, Southern Colorado and No Man's Land, and Southeastern Kansas join in calling for the Meeting to be held in Northeastern Kansas. (4) California.

The Annual Meeting for 1895 will be held in Southern Illinois.

#### **Resolutions.**

Resolved, that the Brethren assembled in General Conference at Meyersdale, Pa., hereby express their gratitude

1. To God for the riches of his "grace, mercy and peace" bestowed upon us during another Annual Meeting.

2. To the brethren and sisters of Western Pennsylvania for their words of welcome and deeds of kindness.

3. To the Committee of Arrangements and helpers, for their efforts to provide for the comfort and entertainment of all in attendance.

4. To the religious organizations of Meyersdale, for their houses of worship, a favor highly appreciated by our ministry and membership under the circumstances.

5. To the City of Meyersdale for the abundant supply of pure mountain water and the good light furnished during the Meeting.

6. To the civil authorities for the good order that they have maintained during our sojourn in the city.

7. To the various railroads for special rates and accommodations received.



**Standing Committee for 1894.**

J. W. Eller,	Tobias Kreider,	S. M. Miller,
W. H. Naff,	Samuel Sprankle,	John Zuck,
Levi A. Wenger,	L. H. Dickey,	Abraham Wolf,
D. B. Arnold,	Wm. Harshbarger,	Isaac F. Rairigh,
W. A. Gaunt,	D. Bechtelheimer,	S. M. Forney,
Eph. W. Stoner,	A. H. Puterbaugh,	Geo. E. Wise,
Geo. K. Sappington,	S. Bucklew,	Chas. M. Yearout,
S. A. Miller,	Jos. Amick,	B. B. Whitmer,
F. P. Cassel,	J. H. Moore,	E. Eby,
C. L. Pfoutz,	J. Rufus Gish,	Abraham Molsbee,
H. B. Brumbaugh,	M. T. Baer,	John Metzger,
David Hildebrand,	G. W. Clemens,	L. W. Teeter.

Enoch Eby, Moderator; L. W. Teeter, Reading Clerk; J. H. Moore, Writing Clerk.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF 1895.**

Decatur, Ill.

Standing Committee organized by electing Bro. Enoch Eby, Moderator; Bro. M. J. McClure, Reading Clerk; Bro. D. L. Miller, Writing Clerk.

The General Conference was opened at 9 A. M., June 4, with the usual devotional exercises.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

1. Whereas, The railroad companies of this country propose to provide the ministers of the different churches with orders for tickets at one-half the regular fare, and

Whereas, the ministers of the Brethren (German Baptist) church have been refused these orders on the ground that they have other occupations bearing remuneration, therefore:

Resolved, That the Huntingdon church ask District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting to appoint a committee to memorialize the United Passenger Association, requesting it to change the rules governing the granting of these orders, or so modify them as not to exclude the ministers of our church, and set forth the following reasons or any other reason to Annual Meeting as the committee so appointed may deem best.

(a) That, although our labors are humble, we do not like to



stand excluded from the Christian Ministry of America by said railroad companies.

(b) That we give our ministerial labors to the world free of cost, and without remuneration.

(c) That our occupations are not intended to supplement a salary for preaching and thus add to worldly wealth.

(d) That the few ministers who have "no other occupation" and who can conscientiously sign the applications for orders for these privileges, generally have an independent competency; hence the discrimination is in favor of the rich and against the poor.

(e) That our duties as ministers frequently call us into remote parts of our congregations, which cover large areas of country, and also into other congregations requiring frequent use of roads in performance of our church work.

(f) That although we have other occupations, our ministers have made it a rule when such orders have been granted to use them only for purposes contemplated in the granting of the orders.

Answer: The petition was granted, and the following committee appointed to confer with the railroad associations concerning the granting of half-fare permits to all of our ministers: D. L. Miller, E. W. Stoner, and S. W. Hoover.

The Committee made a verbal report, which on motion was accepted and the Committee continued, with Bro. C. G. Lint to fill vacancy caused by the death of Bro. S. W. Hoover.

2. We ask Annual Meeting to appoint a committee to report to next Annual Meeting a plan for more efficiently carrying on city mission work, and properly guarding the same.

Annual Meeting referred it to the General Missionary and Tract Committee. Report of this special committee appointed by the Missionary Committee is as follows:

1. City missions should be placed in charge of exemplary ministers, who are able and willing to teach and maintain the doctrines and practices of the church.

2. They must be men who understand the character and wants of city missions, and can adapt themselves to that class of work.

3. In order that they may give the work their entire time and attention it is necessary that they receive a reasonable support.

4. State Mission Boards are hereby authorized and urged to establish missions in cities where there are favorable openings, and sustain them in accordance with the above provisions.



5. State Boards that cannot raise, or devise ways for raising what is needed to maintain such missions, may apply to the General Missionary and Tract Committee for assistance.

6. City missions thus established and maintained must sustain the same relation to the respective State Districts as other congregations, and should be urged to become self-supporting as soon as practicable.

Passed by Annual Meeting.

#### QUERIES.

1. We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting for permission to give thanks for the Communion bread and to break the same in immediate connection with the Lord's Supper, according to the pattern of our Master. See Matt. 26: 26; Mark 14: 22.

Answer: Decided to make no change in our present practice.

2. We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to appoint a committee of five or more brethren to be taken from different parts of our Brotherhood, and who are well informed in regard to the history and needs of our Sunday-school work. Let this committee furnish information and otherwise assist the Missionary and Tract Committee in obtaining statistics and proper information in regard to the needs of our Sunday-school work and let the Missionary and Tract Committee report the result to next Annual Meeting.

Answer: Petition granted.

3. The Walnut Valley church petitions Annual Meeting through District Meeting of Southwestern Kansas and Colorado to say that deposed ministers shall not be restored to office without a two-thirds majority, and then only to the first degree.

Answer: We decide that ministers may be restored to the different degrees of the ministry one degree at a time and by not less than two-thirds of all votes cast.

4. The Neosho County church asks the Southeastern District of Kansas to ask Annual Meeting to give a decision on the right or wrong of the church changing, on Communion occasions, our time-honored custom of dipping in the dish, and substituting a saucer for each individual member.

Answer: We counsel our brethren to make no change in our time-honored custom in this respect.



5. Mineral Creek church of Missouri petitions Annual Meeting through District Meeting to so amend Article 8 of Minutes of Annual Meeting of 1876, page 26, as to prohibit those brethren from leading in the song service who do not conform to the order of the church in dress and general appearance.

Answer: Petition granted.

6. We ask the District Meeting to ask Annual Meeting whether it is right, according to the spirit of the Gospel, to have sewing societies in the church.

Answer: Yes! If the sisters labor in union with the church as expressed in the council and according to the principles of the Gospel.

7. Will this District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to reconsider Art. 7, of Minutes of 1869, and so change the answer that a brother may be allowed to petition according to law for the location of a ditch?

Answer: Passed Annual Meeting.

8. Will this District Meeting petition Annual Meeting to authorize some brother to compile and publish in book form a history of the condition of the ecclesiastical world, that made the inception of the Brethren Church a necessity; including the rise and progress of the church, its growth in numbers and religious work, etc.,—the true piety that characterized the lives of its devoted leaders,—with a short biography of such as were the more zealous and eminent?

Answer: We recommend the compilation and publication of such a work.

9. We request Annual Meeting through District Meeting to reconsider Art. 10 of 1856, and grant the privilege of lifting a public collection when churches think it expedient to do so.

Answer: We reconsider the article and grant the privilege asked for.

[The article reconsidered reads thus:

Art. 10, 1856.—Is it agreeable with the Gospel to make public collections at public meetings, before the world, for our laboring brethren? Considered not agreeable to the Gospel to hold such collections, before the world, for the above purpose.]

10. We, the Lower Cumberland, Pa., congregation of the Brethren, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting that the Standing Committee of Annual Meeting instruct the Com-



mittee of Arrangements of Annual Meeting to select such Brethren to preach in the meetinghouses of other religious organizations, in the city or town where Annual Meeting may be held, as are true representatives of the Brethren church in their clothing, hair, beard and general appearance, as is agreeable to the Minutes of Annual Meeting.

Answer: Petition granted.

11. Whereas Annual Meeting has decided that it is wrong for members to have their likenesses taken, and that those that have them taken shall put them away,—put them out of sight; and whereas some of our members, either as authors, compilers, or publishers, have likenesses of members put in books and advertise that such portraits are in the book; therefore we ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to say whether these authors, compilers or publishers are an exception to said decisions, and if not, to say that they shall stop doing so.

Answer: We do not consider them an exception, and therefore grant the request.

12. We, the Brethren of Beaver Creek congregation, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting of Western Maryland to say what shall be done in case a brother is appointed to act as gauger or storekeeper at a distillery, and has been requested to resign, but refuses to relinquish his office.

Answer: If the brother refuses to resign he shall be dealt with according to Matt. 18: 17. See Eph. 5: 11 and 1 Thess. 5: 22.

13. We, the members of the German Baptist Brethren church at Brownsville, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to say what shall be done with Brethren who aid and abet secret societies, and let their houses for lodges for Freemasons and sympathize with them generally.

Answer: Brethren who do so shall desist, and if they refuse shall be dealt with according to Matt. 18: 17. See Eph. 5: 11.

14. In order that there may be a uniform practice in our Brotherhood in ordaining elders, will Second District of Virginia ask Annual Meeting to define clearly Sec. 2 of Art. 16, Minutes of Annual Meeting, 1890?

Answer: It is the general rule to mention the name of the brother to be ordained when presenting the matter before the elders of the District.



**Report of the General Missionary and Tract Committee of the  
German Baptist Brethren Church to the Annual Meeting  
Held at Decatur, Ill., June 4 to 6, 1895.**

The following is a report of the work, which, by the grace of God, the General Missionary and Tract Committee has done during the year beginning April 1, 1894, and closing April 30, 1895.

**European Missions.**

CHURCHES.	Elders.	Ministers.	Deacons.	Members.	Meetings.	No. Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Emigrated.	Disowned.	Died.
Jylland, Denmark. ....	2	1	3	55	...	1	...	1	2	1
Thyland, Denmark, ....	...	...	3	22	167	1	...	...	...	...
Sjolland, Denmark, ....	1	...	...	7	90	...	...	...	1	...
Total, ....	3	1	6	84	257	2	...	1	3	1
Malmö, Sweden, ....	2	...	3	30	166	6	2	...	1	...
Kjeflinge, Sweden, ....	...	3	1	24	130	6	1	...	2	...
Wanneberga, Sweden, ....	...	...	1	30	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lulea, Sweden, ....	...	1	...	19	38	2	...	...	...	...
Total, ....	2	4	5	103	334	14	3	...	3	...

**Home Mission and Tract Work by the General Missionary and  
Tract Committee.**

Louisiana.—The principal station of this mission is at Esterly, where, during the past year, a meetinghouse was built; 113 meetings, 5 council-meetings and 2 love feasts were held; 1 was received by baptism, 6 by letter, and 3 moved away. The mission had a strong foothold and still more effectual work is expected for the future. The missionary, Eld. S. A. Honberger, held 10 meetings in Alabama and 7 were baptized and one reclaimed.

Kentucky.—The year at this point has been one of better preparation for future work. Eld. A. S. Culp, with his family, has now located near Campbellsville, and has begun work on a systematic basis. At a number of points meetings are held regularly. Eld. I. J. Rosenberger made two visits during last summer and preached a number of times; 5 were received by baptism.

Washington, D. C.—Considerable interest has been awakened for this mission through the special call for donations to build a much needed meetinghouse; to date, however, sufficient funds have not been raised to justify the Committee to arrange for the house. Though the year has been a trying one in the city, yet the results have been encouraging on the whole. Bro. Lyon, the missionary, held 114 regular meetings, 15 special meetings, with an average at-



tendance of about 40. One love feast and 2 council-meetings were also held; 4 were received by letter and 1 by baptism.

Germantown.—At this place the work is steadily growing, a decided increase in attendance both at church and Sunday school being noticeable; 113 meetings, 4 council-meetings and 1 love feast were held; 2 were received by baptism and 2 by letter.

Chicago.—This mission came under the care of the Committee one year ago, and since that time the Committee has been studying more closely the needs of the work here. To think of one mile square of the city, teeming with eternity bound souls, and not having one church, one Sunday school, or one mission within its limits, is appalling. The mission has been doing the best it could. Regular services were held throughout the year in the meetinghouse at 183 Hastings St., and a series of meetings in the winter; 7 accepted Christ and were baptized. During the year 4 were received by letter. W. R. Miller, the missionary, has now closed his business and will give his entire time to the work.

Baltimore.—Sister Carrie Anderson was placed in this city to distribute tracts, and do such other missionary work as her hands would find to do. In the six months of which we have an itemized report she made 942 visits, and distributed 8,215 tracts. Besides she conducted cottage prayer meetings and labored personally with many to accept Christ.

Arkansas.—Bro. D. L. Forney entered this field last summer, to assist those located in this extensive mission territory. With their coöperation a large number of meetings were held, and as an immediate result 30 were received by baptism and 4 by letter. The members at the different places are much encouraged. It is to be regretted that Eld. James R. Gish, the founder and moving spirit of these missions for the past years, must, on account of advanced years, quit the field. Another will be placed in his stead as soon as possible.

Among Scandinavians in America.—Eld. C. Hope spent considerable time during the fall and winter holding meetings and visiting among the Scandinavians in Nebraska. The need of more systematic work among these people is apparent. During his meetings 1 was received by baptism and 1 reinstated.

#### Donations for Building Meetinghouses.

Paradise Prairie church, Okla., .....	\$100 00
Scott Valley church, Kans., .....	100 00
Sheldon church, Iowa, .....	100 00
Topeka church, Kansas, .....	100 00
Washington church, Kansas, .....	200 00



Tyrone church, Pennsylvania, .....	\$250 00
Jennings church, Louisiana, .....	150 00
Roanoke church, Virginia, .....	200 00
Mohawk Valley church, Oregon, .....	300 00
Barron church, Wisconsin, .....	100 00

#### Loans on Meetinghouses.

Washington church, Kansas, .....	\$150 00
Barron church Wisconsin, .....	100 00

#### Assistance to State Districts.

Texas, .....	\$300 00	Middle Iowa, .....	\$200 00
Middle Missouri, .....	150 00	Nebraska, .....	150 00
Northwestern Kansas, ...	250 00	Eastern Pennsylvania, ...	150 00
Southwestern Kansas, ...	300 00		

#### Summary.

Assistance to State Districts, .....	7
Donations for Meetinghouses, .....	10
Loans on Meetinghouses, .....	2
Received into membership, .....	66

#### Chicago Children's Mission.

Total receipts, Oct. 1, 1894, to May 30, 1895, .....	\$523 71
Expenditures from Oct. 1, 1894, to May 30, 1895:	
Alice J. Boone, Support, .....	\$150 00
Lizzie B. Howe, Support, .....	150 00
Fuel, .....	37 00
Incidentals, .....	22 00
Emergency Fund, .....	58 40
Total expenditures, .....	\$417 40
Balance on hand, .....	\$106 31

#### Report of Work.

The mission conducts two Sunday schools each Lord's Day. The one is at 183 Hastings St., in the church, in the morning. This had an enrollment in October last of 65 and closed the year May 30 with 75. The average attendance is 62, and the collection, \$31.82. The other Sunday school is in the afternoon, held in a hall at 180 Henry St. This school began with an enrollment of 35 and closed the year with 40. The average attendance was 36, and the collection, 75 cents.

Besides the Sunday school work the two missionaries, sisters Alice J. Boone and Lizzie B. Howe, held 138 industrial meetings and 132 religious meetings during the week days, in which the life of Christ and other lessons from the Bible were taught. At the indus-



trial meetings the children are taught how to sew, and at the same time instructed in general work. The missionaries also visited 800 different families, made 1,200 visits and distributed 1,500 tracts. The missionaries work among all classes and nationalities of children, and many are the touching scenes revealing misery, want and ignorance of a better life. The work especially commends itself to every one who wishes to help raise fallen humanity to a higher life, and now, that the General Committee has taken the work under its care, it is hoped that its needs will never go unsupplied.

**Itemized Report of Receipts and Expenditures.**  
Home and European Fund.

**Receipts:**

Balance on hand at beginning of year, .....	\$ 2,437 67
Paid back from endowments, .....	1,375 23
General donations, .....	\$4,580 09
Interest from Missionary Endowment Notes, .....	833 09
Interest from Loans of Mission Fund, .....	135 46
Income from part of paid-in Endowment, ..	609 68
Mission and Tract Fund, .....	358 86
Covina farm, .....	450 00
Bills received, meetinghouse loans paid back, .....	467 40
<hr/>	
Total receipts, .....	\$ 7,434 58
<hr/>	
	\$11,247 48

**Expenditures:**

Assistance to State Districts, .....	\$1,500 00
Donations to meetinghouses, .....	1,600 00
Loans to meetinghouses, .....	250 00
Transferred loan on meetinghouse, .....	450 00
Danish Mission, .....	637 70
Swedish Mission, .....	340 82
Transferred to Swedish Mission account, ..	926 87
Arkansas Mission, .....	235 18
Louisiana Mission, .....	140 65
Kentucky Mission, .....	123 95
Germantown Mission, .....	369 66
Alabama Mission, .....	59 58
Chicago Mission, .....	586 60
Scandinavian Mission in America, .....	263 58
Washington City Mission, .....	532 47
One-half Committee's traveling expenses, ..	144 49
Postage and stationery, .....	98 82
Expense of Special Committee, etc., .....	104 26
Expense of Endowment, .....	30 92
Committees sent by Annual Meeting, ....	128 66
Transferred to Bills Receivable account, ..	75 00
Scandinavian Colonization business, .....	86 33
Hoover Estate in Virginia, .....	422 73



Covina farm, .....	\$ 136 30
Office fixtures, .....	67 60
Secretary's salary, .....	150 00

Total expenditures, .....	\$ 9,462 17
Balance of cash on hand, .....	1,785 31
	<u>\$11,247 48</u>

### Tract Work.

#### Receipts:

Donations from churches and individuals, ..	\$ 473 17
Interest from Tract Endowment Notes, ....	1,707 90
Interest from Tract Endowment Loans, ....	399 13
Profit on merchandise, .....	296 32
Proceeds of office fixtures, .....	57 55

Total receipts, .....	\$ 2,934 07
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#### Expenditures:

One-half traveling expenses of Committee, \$	144 49
Expense of Tract Examining Committee, ..	68 57
Gospel Messenger, .....	49 50
Tract Agents' services, .....	417 33
Benefit Rebate, .....	875 19
Printing of tracts, etc., .....	294 35
Bookkeeping, office work, etc., .....	416 66

Total expenditure, .....	\$ 2,266 09
Cash balance, .....	667 98
	<u>\$ 2,934 07</u>

### Statement of Balances of Treasurer's Ledger. Home and European Fund.

#### L. F.

1. Cash on hand, .....	\$1,785 31	
12. Bills Receivable, Meetinghouse Loans, ....	3,908 93	
64. Covina farm, .....	1,633 75	
70. Cassel donations, .....	76 32	
83. Home and European Fund, .....		7,894 64
93. Hoover estate in Virginia, .....	422 73	
108. Office fixtures, .....	67 60	
	<u>\$7,894 64</u>	<u>\$ 7,894 64</u>

### India Fund.

1. Cash on hand, .....	\$1,225 94	
91. Balance of general donations, .....		\$ 4,225 94
95. Bills Receivable, .....	3,000 00	
	<u>\$4,225 94</u>	<u>\$ 4,225 94</u>



## Tract Fund.

1. Cash on hand, .....	\$ 667 98	
109. Tract Fund, .....		\$ 667 98

## Washington City Meetinghouse Fund.

1. Cash on hand, .....	\$1,029 87	
97. Donations, .....		\$ 1,029 87

## Asia Minor Fund.

1. Cash on hand, .....	\$ 67 40	
115. Donations, .....		\$ 67 40

## Scandinavian Colonization Business.

1. Cash on hand, .....	\$1,000 00	
105. Donation, .....		\$ 1,000 00

## Denmark Poor Fund.

1. Cash on hand, .....	\$ 762 86	
113. Donations; interest, etc., .....		\$ 762 86

## Home and European Mission Endowment (Paid in).

1. Cash on hand, .....	\$ 569 50	
57. Total Endowment paid in, .....		\$35,067 86
84. Bills Receivable, .....	8,912 36	
88. Real Estate, .....	15,086 00	
110. Brethren's Publishing Company stock, ....	10,500 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$35,067 86	\$35,067 86

## Tract Endowment.

1. Cash on hand, .....	\$ 1,853 00	
100. Total Endowment paid in, .....		\$16,848 00
110. Brethren's Publishing Company stock, .....	2,000 00	
112. Bills Receivable, .....	12,995 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$16,848 00	\$16,848 00

## India Endowment.

1. Cash on hand, .....	\$50 00	
90 Paid in Endowment, .....		\$50 00

## Summary of Cash.

Home and European Fund, .....	\$1,785 31
India Endowment, .....	1,225 94
Tract Endowment, .....	667 98
Washington City Meetinghouse Fund, .....	1,029 87
Asia Minor Fund, .....	67 40
Scandinavian Colonization Business, .....	1,000 00
Denmark Poor Fund, .....	762 86



Home and European Endowment, .....	\$ 569 50
Tract Endowment, .....	1,853 00
India Endowment, .....	50 00

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Total cash balance, ..... \$ 9,011 86

#### Remarks.

The cash balances of the above report were the available funds to be used by the Committee on May 28 and 29. The larger part has now been appropriated, but inasmuch as the fiscal year closes with April 30, the appropriations do not appear in this report.

The cash on hand throughout the year has been on deposit in the Bank of Mt. Morris, no part of it at any time being used personally either by the Secretary or any member of the Committee.

Of the Home and European Endowment Fund Bills Receivable all is loaned at 7 per cent interest, and secured by first mortgage, except about \$400. The Real Estate account, \$15,086, represents the following:

A farm of 60 acres near Waterloo, Iowa, in which the G. C. E. & M. Committee invested, .....	\$ 586
A farm of 80 acres near Covina, Cal., in which the G. C. E. & M. Committee invested endowment cash, .....	12,000
And delivered one endowment note of, .....	1,000
House and lot in Roann, Ind., which the Committee took for an endowment note of, .....	500
House and lot near Trotwood, Ohio, in which the committee invested endowment cash, .....	500
And an endowment note of, .....	500

Of the \$10,500 Brethren's Publishing Company stock, \$500 was received in exchange for a 5 per cent interest bearing Endowment Note and \$10,000 was given to the Committee under an irrevocable contract, the donor retaining the benefit during life. The \$500 is held in fee simple.

Of the Tract Endowment Bills Receivable, \$4,470 is not secured by mortgage. The loans are bearing 6 or 7 per cent interest. The Brethren's Publishing Company stock of \$2,000 was received for two Tract Endowment bequest notes of \$1,000 each, and held under irrevocable contract.

In addition to the above endowment the Committee has in its care the following endowments in the form of interest and non-interest bearing notes and agreements:

Home and European Endowment, .....	\$42,555 00
Tract Endowment, .....	34,281 66
India Endowment, .....	2,000 00



### Distribution of Tracts and Books.

Although distribution of tracts did not begin at the new office until June 15, 1894, yet from that time to the close of the year 168,000 tracts were sent out. These white-winged messengers of peace went to many homes in the United States and some to far away India. The cash sales from tracts have been very encouraging; this, no doubt, comes from the reduced prices of the tracts. The aim of the Committee is to furnish tracts at as small an expense as possible, and surely it is succeeding when 1,800 pages of reading matter in tract form is sent post-paid for \$1.00. Churches should note that under the provisions of the new constitution 10 per cent of all donations to the General Mission and Tract Work is redeemable in tracts.

An accurate account of the number of books handled during the year was not kept. Suffice it to say, that the office sent out about 2,250 Seven Churches of Asia, some 8,800 Brethren's Sunday School Song Book, besides a large number of miscellaneous books.

Last December the Gish Bible Fund for purchasing Bibles at wholesale prices was advertised for the first. From that time to date over 250 Bibles were handled by the office.

1. Pennsylvania, .....	\$2,439 57	19. Florida, .....	\$ 23 40
2. Ohio, .....	1,794 40	20. Ontario, .....	17 00
3. Indiana, .....	1,686 63	21. Louisiana, .....	16 71
4. Illinois, .....	1,543 92	22. North Carolina, ....	13 00
5. Iowa, .....	930 55	23. Europe, .....	12 73
6. Virginia, .....	743 27	24. Texas, .....	10 85
7. Maryland, .....	524 63	25. Oklahoma, .....	10 56
8. Kansas, .....	488 13	26. Arizona, .....	6 35
9. Nebraska, .....	167 08	27. Colorado, .....	6 15
10. Missouri, .....	129 58	28. District of Columbia,	6 62
11. West Virginia, .....	115 35	29. Washington, .....	5 50
12. California, .....	95 12	30. Idaho, .....	2 95
13. Oregon, .....	43 10	31. Wisconsin, .....	2 50
14. Arkansas, .....	43 20	32. North Dakota, .....	1 50
15. Tennessee, .....	37 00	33. New York, .....	1 00
16. Minnesota, .....	36 15	34. Georgia, .....	1 00
17. Michigan, .....	34 65	35. Indian Territory, ....	25
18. New Jersey, .....	23 90	36. Unclassified, .....	412 08

This was the first year for the new committee and every member had something new to pass judgment upon. The aim has been to serve the church and her interests and wherein it has failed the error has been of the head and not the heart.

Our hearts were saddened when, a few weeks after the February meeting, we heard of the sudden death of our brother and co-worker, S. W. Hoover. As is known, he was an active worker



in the Book and Tract Work of the church, and none knew his zeal and concern for the welfare of Zion so well as those who worked with him. Though we do not understand why he was called hence now, yet we believe it was for the best, and humbly submit to an All-wise Providence.

According to the power delegated to the Committee Isaac Frantz of Ohio was unanimously chosen to complete Bro. Hoover's term on the Committee.

The work is branching out and becoming great in extent and responsibility, and the Committee deeply feels the need of divine aid and the coöperation of the church. May such be given her.

Enoch Eby, Foreman; Galen B. Royer, Secretary; D. L. Miller, Treasurer.

#### Report of Auditing Committee.

We, your committee, appointed to audit the Missionary and Tract account books, have audited the same to the best of our ability, and hereby certify that the preceding reports are correct, so far as we were able to ascertain.

H. E. Light,  
Geo. L. Studebaker,  
L. H. Eby.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

##### Report of Trustees.

The trustees of the General Conference submit the following, for the year ending with Annual Meeting of 1895:

Oct. 8, 1894, received of David Bailey, Real Estate Agent, St. Louis, Mo., rentals of church property,		\$200 00
Less Commission, .....	\$ 10 00	
Amount Retained for Incidental Repairs, etc., .....	20 00	
Street-sprinkling Tax, Carpenter Work, Advertising,		
Total, .....	26 41	
Balance on hand, .....	143 59	

L. W. Teeter, S. R. Zug, Henry Frantz; (H. C. Early and H. C. Baker, absent).

#### Calls for Annual Meeting.

(1) California, 1896. (2) Kansas, 1896. (3) Nebraska, 1897. (4) Northern Illinois, 1896. (5) Middle Missouri, 1896. (6) Middle Indiana, 1896. (7) Second District of Virginia, 1899.

The Annual Meeting for 1896 will be held in the Northeastern District of Kansas.



### Committees Appointed.

On General Missionary and Tract Committee: S. F. Sanger, Samuel Zug.

Tract Examining Committee: D. S. Filbrun.

School Visiting Committees:—

Lordsburg, Cal., Isaac M. Gibble.

McPherson, Kans., Levi W. Fitzwater.

Mt. Morris, Ill., J. C. Murray.

Huntingdon, Pa., Jas. A. Sell.

Bridgewater, Va., L. A. Wenger.

General Railway Committee, Trans-Missouri Association, S. Z. Sharp.

Advisory Committee, Gospel Messenger, Daniel Hays. W. R. Deeter, to fill vacancy caused by resignation of L. W. Teeter.

Committee on Sunday school needs and statistics, I. B. Trout, C. E. Arnold, Grant Mahan, J. B. Brumbaugh, J. M. Keagy.

Committee to audit Annual Meeting Treasurer's books: G. B. Royer, L. H. Eby, Daniel Hays.

To compile and publish history of the church: Eld. S. Z. Sharp.

To accompany and assist Bro. D. L. Miller in church work in Sweden and Denmark: Eld. C. Hope.

Whereas reports are being circulated in our Brotherhood injurious to the character and influence of the church at Huntingdon, Pa., therefore we send a committee to investigate said reports and set in order the things wanting: W. R. Deeter, Lewis W. Teeter, Daniel Hays, C. G. Lint, J. H. Miller.

Committee to Linville and Pleasant Valley churches, Second District of Virginia: David Long, Jonas Grabill, D. B. Arnold.

Committee to Logan church, Northwestern Ohio: J. H. Miller, Henry Frantz, John Smith.

Committee to Pine Creek church, Northern Indiana: M. J. McClure, Jacob Snell, Stephen Ullery, D. B. Eby, D. E. Price.

Committee to the Bachelor Run church, Flora, Ind.: D. E. Price, Henry Frantz, Jesse Stutzman, D. F. Hoover, Daniel Witmer.

Committee to Bear Creek church, Montgomery Co., Ohio: L. H. Dickey, Samuel Loose, Samuel Driver.

Committee to Mineral Creek church, Middle Missouri: Enoch Eby, M. J. McClure, Jos. Amick.

Committee to Pleasant Valley church, Southern District of Ohio: Jacob Reiff, Samuel Driver, Jacob Rairigh.



### Recommendations by Missionary and Tract Committee.

The General Missionary and Tract Committee recommends to Standing Committee Bro. G. J. Fercken as a missionary to be sent to Asia Minor.

Answer: Recommendation granted.

Decided to recommend to Standing Committee the following:

Standing Committee shall appoint a committee of three brethren who are practical bookkeepers to audit books of General Missionary and Tract Committee at its office.

Annual Meeting agreed to do so, and the following were appointed: J. C. Mellinger, L. R. Peifer, Aaron Clair.

### Report of Committees.

The report of the Committee to Eastern Pennsylvania was adopted. The Committee was continued and instructed to carry forward the work as rapidly as prudence will dictate.

Bro. J. F. Oller having resigned on the Committee to Eastern Pennsylvania, Bro. D. B. Arnold was appointed in his place.

Report of Committee from Annual Meeting to Western Pennsylvania adopted, and instructed to proceed with the work placed in their hands as rapidly as prudence will dictate.

Bro. Daniel Hays resigned his place on the Committee and Bro. Levi Wenger was appointed in his place.

### Resolutions from Standing Committee.

1. Resolved, that hereafter Standing Committee shall meet at 8 o'clock A. M., on Thursday (before Annual Meeting).

2. That all papers be placed in the hands of Standing Committee as early as possible.

3. That Standing Committee shall be under no obligations to receive any papers after the close of the forenoon session on Monday.

### Resolutions.

Resolved, that the Brethren assembled at Annual Meeting at Decatur, Ill., hereby express their gratitude

1. To God for his mercy and goodness bestowed upon us during this Annual Meeting.

2. To the brethren and sisters of Southern Illinois for their many words of welcome and deeds of kindness.

3. To the Committee of Arrangements and their helpers, for their untiring efforts to provide for the comfort and entertainment of all.



4. To the various churches of Decatur, Ill., for the use of their houses of worship, and their highly appreciated kindness shown to our people.

5. To the citizens of Decatur, Ill., for the abundant supply of good water, light, and comfortable buildings gratuitously furnished, for the successful holding of this meeting, and for the comfortable lodging places so kindly furnished us.

6. To the civil authorities for their ample protection and aid in preserving good order.

7. To the various railroads for the special rates and accommodations afforded our people.

8. To the street-car lines for their accommodations in conveying us to and from the place of meeting while in the city.

#### Standing Committee for 1895.

D. L. Miller,	S. B. Shirkey,	C. G. Lint,
P. S. Myers,	Fred Culp,	Jas. A. Sell,
A. W. Austin,	C. Holderman,	E. D. Book,
Jacob Witmore,	Solomon Bucklew,	C. Bucher,
John Hollinger,	M. J. McClure,	D. F. Stouffer,
W. B. Sell,	D. B. Eby,	Ed. S. Bruner,
I. H. Crist,	J. H. Miller,	Z. Annon,
Owen Peters,	Samuel Leckrone,	Tobias S. Fike,
Daniel Chambers,	David F. Hoover,	L. A. Wenger,
Jacob A. Murray,	Christ. Krabill,	S. F. Sanger,
J. W. Diehl,	F. B. Weimer,	Geo. W. Hutchison,
John Gable,	Henry Frantz,	C. H. Diehl.

Enoch Eby, Moderator; M. J. McClure, Reading Clerk; D. L. Miller, Writing Clerk.

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF 1896.

Ottawa, Kans.

Standing Committee organized by electing D. E. Price, Moderator; L. H. Dickey, Reading Clerk; D. L. Miller, Writing Clerk; I. D. Parker, Assistant Writing Clerk.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

1. We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to appoint a committee of five or more brethren, to be taken from different parts of our Brotherhood, and who are well informed in regard to the history and needs of our Sunday school work. Let this com-



mittee furnish information and otherwise assist the Missionary and Tract Committee in obtaining statistics and proper information in regard to the needs of our Sunday school work and let the Missionary and Tract Committee report the result to next Annual Meeting.

The petition was granted by the Annual Meeting of 1895 and the committee appointed. The committee reported as follows:

Ottawa, Kans., May 25, 1896.

To Annual Meeting, Greeting:—

We, your Sunday School Committee, appointed by Annual meeting of 1895, by instruction of the General Missionary Committee, submit the following:

Art. I.—We mailed circulars of inquiry to all churches within our knowledge. While a majority of these circulars have been returned with satisfactory information, yet not a sufficient number from which to gather correct statistics and information in regard to the condition of our Sunday schools. If desired and so directed by this Annual Meeting, we will, as soon as practicable, within the coming year, publish in the Gospel Messenger the most interesting features of the information gathered.

Art. II.—(1) We recommend that this Annual Meeting appoint a committee of three brethren who are in sympathy with our Brotherhood and her Sunday school work. This committee to sustain a relation to our Sunday school literature similar to that sustained by the Advisory Committee to the Gospel Messenger, and to be amenable to the Annual Meeting through the Standing Committee. This committee shall assist the publishers of our Sunday school literature in keeping our quarterlies, papers, etc., sound in the doctrines of the Scriptures, as understood by the General Brotherhood, and in raising the standard of our Sunday school literature as rapidly as possible.

(2) We further recommend that this Sunday School Committee conduct a Sunday school meeting in the Tabernacle at each Annual Meeting, the program and arrangements for such meeting to be subject to the approval of Standing Committee.

(3) The term of office of this committee shall be three years, except those first appointed, one of whom shall serve one year; one, two years, and one, three years.

(4) Should it become necessary for this committee to incur some expenses, let such expenses be paid from the Sunday school missionary contributions, or by public collection at annual Sunday school meeting.



Signed: I. Bennett Trout, C. E. Arnold.

Approved by the Annual Meeting.

### QUERIES.

The four following queries were submitted by the General Missionary and Tract Committee to the Standing Committee and answered as follows:

1. What shall be done when missions located within the bounds of State Districts are not properly supported, sometimes sadly neglected, by District Boards and local congregations?

Answer: We recommend that State District committees and local congregations who neglect mission points be reported to the District Meeting and be required to faithfully discharge their duties.

Passed Annual Meeting.

2. As there is a pressing demand for Bro. Fercken to be allowed to receive into church fellowship, without rebaptism, such adult applicants as were baptized by trine immersion for remission of sins by the Greeks and Armenians, and are willing to adopt our faith and practice, we recommend that a committee of five be appointed to look into the question of rebaptism as it relates to the Asia Minor Mission, and report to the next Annual Meeting.

Passed Annual Meeting.

3. No provision has been made for the support of missionaries, who, through their labors in the mission field, have become disabled.

Answer: We recommend that a committee of three be appointed to draft a plan to provide for disabled missionaries and report same to Annual Meeting of 1897.

Passed Annual Meeting.

4. No one is authorized to decide which State District shall take charge of a mission point about which some misunderstanding has arisen after such mission point has become organized.

Answer: We recommend that, when a mission point is organized into a church, the General Missionary and Tract Committee recommend the church to a District, and if said recommendation is not heeded, Annual Meeting shall say where it belongs.

Passed Annual Meeting.

5. We, the brethren and sisters of the Brummett's Creek church, N. C., petition District Meeting to urge Annual Meeting to make a decision on the divorce question, in order to avoid trouble in the churches, as it was indefinitely postponed by Annual Meeting of '91.



Answer: In view of the very grave nature of the question, we ask Annual Meeting to appoint a committee of five, to carefully and prayerfully frame an answer to the paper and report the same to this meeting, if possible, and if not, to Annual Meeting of 1897.

6. Will the District Meeting of Southern Ohio ask Annual Meeting to define the relation that exists between elders and the church in which they live? Upon the removal of the acting elder by death, or otherwise, is it the duty or privilege of another to take the oversight of said church, without the said church making choice of him to do so?

Answer: No, not without the choice of the church, or by appointment of some other authorized body. This decision does not apply to past actions.

7. (Salem church, Southern District of Ohio.) We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to reconsider Art. 10 of Minutes of Annual Meeting of 1889, and so amend, that no delegate to Annual Meeting or District Meeting, or member of the Standing Committee be accepted as such who uses, raises, buys or sells tobacco.

Answer: We grant petition asked for.

8. (Mississinewa church, Delaware Co., Ind.) Inasmuch as Art. 43, of 1827 (see Revised Minutes, page 187), makes it binding on ministers performing the anointing service to make three applications of oil, we ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting if it would not be more in harmony with the command, "Anointing them in the name of the Lord" (James 5: 14), to make but one application?

Answer: We are satisfied with the present practice, believing it to be in harmony with the command.

9. We, the members of the Manchester church, petition District Meeting of Middle Indiana to ask Annual Meeting to recognize a Brethren's school at North Manchester.

Answer: Decided that the North Manchester school be placed upon the same status held by other schools in our Brotherhood.

10. The Pine Creek church petitions Annual Meeting through District Meeting to appoint a committee of five brethren to investigate the subject of life insurance, to find out whether or not there are any life insurance companies who issue policies which the Brethren may accept without violating any Gospel principle. This committee to report to next Annual Meeting.



Answer: We cannot grant the request.

11. Inasmuch as getting consent of the elders of the District in sending missionaries to foreign fields may interfere with prompt action on the part of the General Missionary and Tract Committee to meet the demands of the field, because many Districts have their meetings in the fall instead of the spring, and inasmuch as we think the investigation of the General Missionary and Tract Committee, which gets the confidential statement of three or more elders who know the applicant, concerning his soundness in the faith, etc., and the recommendation of the local congregation, and the approval of Standing Committee and the Annual Meeting, are sufficient safeguards, therefore we petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to drop the requirement of consent of the elders of the District in sending missionaries to foreign fields.

Answer: Petition granted by Annual Meeting.

12. We, the Bethany congregation, ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting that, inasmuch as ours is an adjoining congregation to the George's Creek congregation, in the Western District of Pennsylvania, and whereas some of the members of the said George's Creek congregation do not conform to the order of our beloved Brotherhood and they sometimes attend our Communions while out of order, which gives us trouble, and when asked if they know they are out of order, they answer, "No, no one ever told us we are out of order," we ask Annual Meeting to take steps that will very soon obviate this trouble.

Answer: Whereas there is a committee appointed to look after some churches in Western Pennsylvania and Western Virginia, we refer the matter to said committee to take the needed steps.

13. The Milmine church asks Annual Meeting through District Meeting to limit the validity of "church letters" to six months from the time members locate in the limits of an organized church, when it is possible to present them.

Answer: Request granted by Annual Meeting.

14. We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to say if the "Bible Schools" held in the local churches are condemned by Art. 10 of the Minutes of 1882.

Answer: No.

15. Is it proper for Brethren to use our Church name in connection with business, such as the "Brethren's Insurance Co.,"



"The Brethren's Emigration Society," "The Brethren's Schools," "The Brethren's Grocery Co.," etc.? Passed to the Annual Meeting with the answer, No. This should not be so construed as to apply to business authorized as church business by Annual Meeting.

Answer: Passed Annual Meeting.

16. We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting that future editions of the "Brethren's Hymnal" have the words printed between the staff when possible, and that all duplicate tunes be substituted with other tunes.

Answer: Decided to make no change.

17. We, the members of the Slate Creek congregation, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to decide that all queries of a general and ecclesiastical character that are to be considered by Annual Meeting shall be published in the Gospel Messenger or its successor before the time of Annual Meeting.

Answer: It is so decided.

18. We recommend that the General Missionary and Tract Committee be authorized to revise or add to the Brethren's Sunday School Song Book.

Answer: We grant the Missionary Committee the privilege to do so.

**Report of the General Missionary and Tract Committee of the German Baptist Brethren Church to the Annual Meeting  
Held at Ottawa, Kans., May 26 to 28, 1896.**

To the Annual Meeting of 1896,

Dear Brethren and Sisters:—

The second year of labor for the General Missionary and Tract Committee ended April 30, and in reviewing the work done and noting the progress made, as it is found in this, our annual report, a deep feeling of gratitude to God for what has been done, possesses our hearts. To him be glory for ever and ever.

During the year our Treasurer, Eld. D. L. Miller, was on a leave of absence, having been sent by the Committee and the Annual Meeting to visit the churches and missionaries in the foreign fields. All his travels in visiting the several foreign missions were done entirely at his own expense. Though not present at the meetings of the Committee, his heart was in the work and the Committee received letters from him containing suggestions concerning the fields visited and thus he rendered valuable assistance in the work.



In his absence Eld. J. C. Lahman of Illinois, occupied his place in Committee meetings, and the Secretary acted as Treasurer.

Our Foreign Fields.

Denmark and Sweden.—Eld. D. L. Miller and wife, and Eld. C. Hope were sent to visit the churches in these countries, and while there Eld. H. B. Brumbaugh and brethren T. T. Myers and W. L. Bingaman, of their own accord, visited some of the congregations. Their visit was timely, their labors appreciated, and they succeeded in doing much for the church. They left the church in good working order, full of zeal, and a strong desire to stand faithful to primitive Christianity. The ministry is zealous in its work and not a little sacrifice is made in behalf of the cause. At least two brethren endured imprisonment because they refused to learn the art of war. The Committee is increasing the list of tracts in the Scandinavian languages and a song book with suitable hymns is now prepared for the printers and will be sent to them in due time. From a statistical standpoint the churches are as follows:

CHURCHES.	Elders.	Ministers.	Deacons.	Members.	Meetings.	No. Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Emigrated.	Disowned.	Died.
Kjeflinge, Sweden, .....	1	2	1	27	200	2	1	...	2	...
Malmo, Sweden, .....	1	2	...	24	209	5	...	...	...	1
Lulea and Northland, Sweden, ..	...	2	1	16	...	*4	...	4	2	...
Linnham, Sweden, .....	1	...	1	11	90	2	2	...	2	...
Wannaberga, Sweden, .....	...	1	1	25	60	2	1	...	3	...
Total, .....	3	7	4	103	559	15	4	4	9	1
Tylland, Denmark, .....	3	...	4	57	158	†1	2	...	2	...
Thyland, Denmark, .....	...	2	3	24	19	...	2	...	...	...
Sjoelland, Denmark, .....	...	...	...	4	92	1	...	2	2	...
Total, .....	3	2	7	85	269	2	4	2	4	...

\* 1 Restored.

† 1 Restored.

India Field.—It has now been two years since the three who have been working in this field were approved by this meeting. The years have been full of experience. The missionaries are acquiring the language, and becoming more fully acquainted with the people, and the difficulties they have to meet. Affliction was heavy upon one of them, but he was raised up, and is, with the others, earnest in the work. A number have made inquiry concerning the faith, but none have been received into fellowship. Eld. D. L. Miller and wife spent some weeks in this field and were deeply impressed with the great need of mission work. They found the



missionaries of one mind and faith and desirous to be in full sympathy and harmony with the Brotherhood at home.

Smyrna, Asia Minor.—One year ago it was decided to open a mission at Smyrna. Bro. G. J. Fercken and wife, the missionaries appointed, reached their field of labor July 13, 1895. In September Eld. D. L. Miller and wife, Eld. H. B. Brumbaugh, and brethren T. T. Myers and W. L. Bingaman, visited the mission, and on Sept. 29 the first love feast was held. Seven persons sat around the table of the Lord and several Greeks were present at the services. Previous to the feast Bro. G. J. Fercken was ordained to the eldership, elders D. L. Miller and H. B. Brumbaugh laying on hands. The first baptism was administered Oct. 17, 1895, and on April 15, 1896, there had been nine received into the church,—five from the Greek, three from the Armenian, and one from the au-Armeno-Protestant faith. On Jan. 26 the First Church of the Brethren was organized. At this meeting one deacon was elected and an evangelist duly appointed. At the second feast, held April 2, eleven communed. Statistics for the year: Church of Smyrna, one elder, one minister, one deacon, eleven members, nine baptized, two love feasts held.

#### Missions in America.

The Committee has continued its work at Germantown, Pa., Washington, D. C., Chicago, Ill., and in Arkansas and Louisiana. There was some work done in Florida also.. The different points each have their encouragements and discouragements, and their perplexities. Yet with it all progress has been made and we have reason to praise God that souls have been born into the kingdom of grace. For convenience and brevity we tabulate information from these several points:

MISSIONS.	Meetings held.	Councils held.	Love feasts held.	Av. att'd church.	Rec'd by Baptism.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Lost by Moving.	Disowned.
Germantown, Pa., .....	108	6	2	21	4	4	...	2	...
Washington, D. C., .....	114	2	...	35	3	5	...	...	...
Chicago, Ill., .....	109	7	2	35	4	12	2	16	3
Louisiana, .....	153	6	2	...	6	16	...	4	...
Arkansas, .....	252	14	10	...	25	12	2	...	9
Total, .....	736	35	16	91	42	49	4	22	12

In addition to the above Eld. C. Hope spent some weeks among the Scandinavians in Nebraska. He held twenty-nine meetings, vis-



ited and distributed tracts, and held one love feast and baptized three.

In connection with the above the Committee has placed regularly-appointed tract distributors at Roanoke, Va., Washington, D. C., Hutchinson and Ottawa, Kans., in Arkansas and in Malmo Sweden. In addition to these, in various parts of the country, where isolated members live and desire to spread the faith, they have been supplied with tracts gratis. These all have done good work, though the results in each case merge into the work of the church which they help. Bro. D. M. Click has done very satisfactory work in parts of Maryland and Pennsylvania in holding classes to improve the singing in the congregations and introduce the literature published by the Committee.

Chicago Children's Mission.—During the year two points of work have been maintained, the one at the church at 183 Hastings St., and the other in the neighborhood of Waller Street. Sunday school each Lord's Day at each place, two industrial meetings and four Bible lessons each week have been held. Since Feb. 1, forty meetings were conducted in the Reading Room of the Branch Mission. In addition to the above, sixteen hospital visits were made. The sisters made over one thousand calls, cared for eight persons during sickness, assisted in feeding and clothing about thirty, and distributed over two thousand tracts. While on their visit east last summer they held thirty-seven meetings and twenty-eight Bible readings. Last winter the missionaries moved their home to the Branch Mission, but the Committee has considered it best to move back into the neighborhood of the church and concentrate the efforts of the mission at the same place the Chicago church is working. At a recent meeting sister Boone tendered a letter of withdrawal from the work under the Committee, and the same, after careful consideration, was accepted. Sister Elizabeth Howe has been placed in full charge of the mission, and sister Susie Forney, of Polo, Ill., added to the corps of workers. Hereafter all donations for the Chicago Children's Mission should be addressed to sister Howe and the same will be acknowledged through the Visitor. We bespeak for this great work in the city the hearty support of all the brethren and sisters.

#### Donations for Building Meetinghouses.

Wichita church, Kansas, .....	\$ 100 00
Carthage church, Missouri, .....	200 00
Smith Grove church, Missouri, .....	200 00
Denver church, Colorado, .....	250 00
Pilot Knob church, Arkansas, .....	100 00



Des Moines Valley church, Iowa, .....	\$ 200 00
Glendale church, Arizona, .....	200 00
Total, .....	\$1,250 00

#### Loans on Meetinghouses.

Pilot Knob church, Ark., .....	\$ 100 00
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#### Assistance to State Districts.

Northwestern Kansas, ..\$ 300 00	Middle Iowa, .....\$ 100 00
Southeastern Kansas, .. 100 00	Texas, Oklahoma and No
Northeastern Kansas, ... 75 00	Man's Land, ..... 200 00
Southwestern Kansas, .. 100 00	California, ..... 100 00
Northern Missouri, ..... 100 00	Oregon, Idaho and Wash., 450 00
Middle Missouri, ..... 50 00	
Southern Missouri, .... 100 00	Total, .....\$1,825 00
Nebraska, ..... 150 00	

#### Summary.

Assistance to State Districts, .....	12
Donations to Meetinghouses, .....	7
Loans to Meetinghouses, .....	1
Received into membership in all fields, .....	74

#### Itemized Statement of Receipts and Expenditures.

##### Home and European Fund.

##### Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of year, .....	\$ 1,785 31
Donations, Interests and general income, \$ 7,897 80	
Covina farm, ..... 800 00	
Chicago Home Building Fund, ..... 64 55	
Cassel Donation properties, ..... 22 68	
Meetinghouse Bills Receivable, ..... 672 50	9,457 53
Total, .....	\$11,242 84

##### Expenditures:

Assistance to State Districts, .....\$ 1,825 00
Donations to building meetinghouses, ..... 1,250 00
Loans on meetinghouses, ..... 100 00
Danish Mission, ..... 1,058 69
Swedish Mission, ..... 1,071 77
Arkansas Mission, ..... 266 76
Louisiana Mission, ..... 141 95
Kentucky Mission, ..... 40 25
Florida Mission, ..... 37 80
Washington Mission, ..... 678 76
Chicago Mission, ..... 656 84
Germantown Mission, ..... 296 23
Scandinavian Mission in America, ..... 177 87
Scandinavian colonization business, ..... 90 91
Missionary Visitor for last year, ..... 210 01



Transferred to Asia Minor, .....	\$..	23	83	
One-half Committee's traveling expenses, .		115	60	
Secretary's salary, .....		150	00	
Expense for endowment, .....		41	83	
Committees sent by Annual Meeting, .....		131	46	
Office fixtures, .....		82	65	\$ 8,448 21

Cash balance on hand, ..... \$ 2,794 63

#### Book and Tract Department.

##### Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of year, ....			\$ 667 98
Donations, interest, etc., .....	\$	2,719	82
Earnings of the office for the year, .....		858	22
Funds turned over by the Secretary, .....		692	56

Total, ..... \$ 4,938 58

##### Expenditures:

Printing, etc., .....	\$	773	39
Rebate on Tract interest, .....		708	80
Tract agents' services, .....		606	46
Office work, bookkeeping, etc., .....		576	05
Tract Examining Committee's expenses, ..		53	75
One-half Committee's traveling expenses, ..		115	60
S. Bock, overpayment, .....		6	00
Missionary Gospel Messengers, .....		230	55
Refunded to Secretary for overpayment, ..		100	00

Cash balance on hand, ..... \$ 1,767 98

#### India Fund.

##### Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of the year, ..			\$ 4,225 94
Donations and interest, .....			1,689 66

Total, ..... \$ 5,915 60

##### Expenditures:

Sent to missionaries in India, .....	\$	268	09
Raising funds in Indiana, .....		12	50
Bills receivable, .....		5,275	00

Cash balance on hand, ..... \$ 360 01

#### Asia Minor Fund.

##### Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of year, ..			\$ 67 40
Donations, .....			2,513 62

Total, ..... \$ 2,581 02

##### Expenditures:

Opening Mission at Smyrna, and support up to April 1, 1896, .....			\$ 1,425 50
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Cash balance on hand, ..... \$ 1,155 52



**Statement of Balances of Treasurer's Ledger.**  
Home and European Fund.

## L. F.

1 Cash, .....	\$ 2,794 63	
13 Bills Receivable, .....	3,336 43	
70 Cassel Donations, .....	53 64	
64 Houser farm, .....	833 75	
86 Home and European Fund, .....		\$ 7,526 88
93 Hoover Estate in Virginia, .....	422 73	
108 Office fixtures, .....	150 25	
116 Chicago Building Fund, .....		64 55
	<hr/>	
	\$ 7,591 43	\$ 7,591 43

## Tract Fund.

1 Cash, .....	\$ 1,767 98	
124 Donations, incomes, etc., .....		\$ 1,767 98

## India Fund.

1 Cash on hand, .....	\$ 360 01	
150 Donations and incomes, .....		\$ 5,635 01
151 Bills Receivable, .....	5,275 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$ 5,635 01	\$ 5,635 01

## Asia Minor Fund.

1 Cash in overpayment, .....	\$ 1,155 52	
174 Donations, .....		\$ 1,155 52

## Washington Meetinghouse Fund.

1 Cash on hand, .....		\$ 2 23
97 Bills Receivable, .....	\$ 1,700 00	
97 Donations, .....		1,697 77
	<hr/>	
	\$ 1,700 00	\$ 1,700 00

## Scandinavian Colony Fund.

Bills Receivable, .....	\$ 1,000 00	
Donation, .....		\$ 1,000 00

## Denmark Poor Fund.

1 Cash, .....	\$ 232 86	
200 Donations and incomes, .....		\$ 1,832 86
201 Bills Receivable, .....	1,600 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$ 1,832 86	\$ 1,832 86

## Home and European Endowment.

1 Cash, .....	\$ 274 50	
57 Paid in, .....		\$38,797 86



84 Bills Receivable, .....	\$12,937 36	
88 Real estate, .....	15,086 00	
110 Brethren's Publishing Company stock, ....	10,500 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$38,797 86	\$38,797 86

## Tract Endowment.

1 Cash in overpayment, .....		\$ 73 00
126 Paid in, .....		18,353 50
125 Brethren's Publishing Company stock, ....	\$ 2,000 00	
127 Bills Receivable, .....	16,426 50	
	<hr/>	
	\$18,426 50	\$18,426 50

## India Endowment.

1 Cash, .....	\$ 50 00	
152 Paid in, .....		\$ 1,050 00
152 Bills Receivable, .....	1,000 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$ 1,050 00	\$ 1,050 00

## Statement of Cash on Hand.

Home and European Mission Fund, .....	\$ 2,794 63	
Tract Fund, .....	1,767 98	
India Mission, .....	360 01	
Asia Minor Fund, .....	1,155 52	
Washington meetinghouse, .....		\$ 2 23
Denmark Poor Fund, .....	232 86	
Home and European Endowment, .....	274 50	
Tract Endowment, .....		73 00
India Endowment, .....	50 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$ 6,635 50	\$ 75 23
Less overbalance, .....	75 23	
	<hr/>	

Balance of cash in the Bank of Mt. Morris, \$ 6,560 27

## Assets.

Home and European Fund, .....	\$ 7,526 88	
Chicago Home Building Fund, .....	64 55	
Tract Fund, .....	1,767 98	
India Fund, .....	5,635 01	
Asia Minor Fund, .....	1,155 52	
Washington Meetinghouse Fund, .....	1,697 77	
Denmark Poor Fund, .....	1,832 86	
Scandinavian Colony Fund, .....	1,000 00	
Home and European Endowment, .....	38,797 86	
Tract Endowment, .....	18,353 50	
India Endowment, .....	1,050 00	
Value of Real Estate above investment, .....	30,000 00	
Merchandise as per inventory, .....	1,114 37	
Tracts as per inventory, .....	125 00	
	<hr/>	
Total assets in Committee's care, .....		\$110,121 30



## Remarks.

In addition to the assets given in the preceding, the Committee has \$65,765 in the form of interest and non-interest bearing endowment notes made in favor of the several funds.

The cash balances were the funds on hand May 1 for the Committee's use at its meeting May 18. They are now largely appropriated.

The loans made during the past year from the several endowment funds were examined and approved by the Auditing Committee. The investments remain the same as reported one year ago, except there being an increase of Bills Receivable secured by first mortgage.

## Income by States.

1. Illinois, .....	\$2,751 58	22. Arkansas, .....	\$ 19 90
2. Pennsylvania, .....	2,290 51	23. Oklahoma, .....	19 56
3. Ohio, .....	1,473 88	24. South Dakota, .....	17 00
4. Indiana, .....	1,058 32	25. Sweden, .....	15 95
5. Iowa, .....	997 91	26. Denmark, .....	15 92
6. Virginia, .....	730 83	27. North Dakota, .....	15 46
7. Maryland, .....	723 54	28. New Jersey, .....	13 94
8. Kansas, .....	711 29	29. North Carolina, .....	13 70
9. California, .....	218 77	30. Canada, .....	12 00
10. Missouri, .....	218 57	31. Wisconsin, .....	6 87
11. Nebraska, .....	141 70	32. Alabama, .....	3 50
12. Michigan, .....	87 48	33. Idaho, .....	3 50
13. West Virginia, .....	79 75	34. Nevada, .....	2 50
14. Minnesota, .....	57 10	35. Kentucky, .....	1 88
15. Florida, .....	47 25	36. Arkansas, .....	1 00
16. Tennessee, .....	43 66	37. Washington, .....	50
17. Colorado, .....	24 57	A. M. collection of	
18. Louisiana, .....	22 84	'95, .....	366 12
19. Texas, .....	22 82	A. M. surplus of '95	1,211 86
20. Oregon, .....	21 80	Sundry items, .....	198 37
21. Arizona, .....	20 40		

## Distribution of Tracts and Books.

The output of tracts is a little over twice as large as it was last year, there being 2,000,604 pages distributed. The series of leaflets issued one year ago, as well as the Tract Tablet, have been giving good satisfaction, and others on sundry subjects will be published in the near future. The ten per cent rebate in tracts on all donations to the Committee has been used largely, and this has awakened interest in tract distribution in local congregations. It is hoped that during the coming year an agent for the Book and Tract Work will be appointed in each congregation in the Brotherhood.

True, many of the tracts are wasted and lost. Even Christians



badly misuse them sometimes. But this should not discourage their distribution. How many sermons go unheeded by the multitude of ears! It is ours to cultivate and sow; it is God's to give the increase.

The Committee has been greatly encouraged by the circulation of their own books, as well as by the demand for miscellaneous publications. The basis for operation for this work is to benefit the purchaser, and, though the work is in its infancy, every indication points to a rapid growth. The book department, besides turning over a little over \$850 to the Tract Fund as net earnings for the year, has borne the entire expense of the office in fuel, stationery, insurance, and other incidental expenses.

The sale of Bibles and Testaments under the Gish Bible Fund reached 1,096 copies, and as far as is known every purchaser is well pleased with his book. Under this fund any one may purchase a good teacher's Bible at wholesale price.

The Missionary Visitor was changed to a monthly at the beginning of 1896, and this change received a hearty approval wherever the paper is known. The list of subscribers is increasing steadily, and while the list has not reached the self-supporting point, yet, we are hoping that it will do so before the close of the year.

#### A Comparison Which Shows Growth.

Despite the cry of hard times, the discouragements to mission work in some parts of the Brotherhood, and the chilling indifference in other parts, the glorious cause of "Go ye" is steadily increasing and overcoming opposition. The following table is full of encouragement to every worker of missions who has studied and watched its progress in the church:

Fund.	1895.	1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
Home and European Fund, \$	6,967.18	\$ 8,697.80	\$1,730.62	.....
Tract Work, .....	2,934.07	4,270.60	1,336.53	.....
Washington meetinghouse, ..	1,029.87	667.90	.....	\$ 361.97
India Mission, .....	2,582.63	1,689.66	.....	892.97
Asia Minor Mission, .....	67.40	2,513.62	2,446.22	.....
	<u>\$13,581.15</u>	<u>\$17,839.58</u>	<u>\$5,513.37</u>	<u>\$1,254.94</u>
		13,581.15	1,254.94	
Total increase, .....		\$ 4,258.43	\$4,258.43	

The table reveals a healthy increase. It also sets at nought the theory that foreign missions will destroy interest in the home field. Though a new field has been opened in Asia Minor drawing \$2,513.62 in contributions, though the net increase of contributions to foreign fields is \$1,553.25 over last year, yet the fund to the home field has received an increase of \$2,705.18. Thank God for



this growth. And though in some parts there may be apparent reasons for discouragements, let us put ourselves anew to the work, singing as we go,

“To the work! to the work! we are servants of God,

Let us follow the path that our Master has trod,”

and as he left his home in heaven and came to this foreign, indifferent, rebellious land to redeem us all from sin, so let us be willing to leave our country, our kindred, our Father's house, and carry the Bread of Life to the hungry in this and other lands. And though the past year has been glorious for the Lord, let the year 1896 and '97, through Christ's name and for his dear sake, still be more glorious.

Enoch Eby, Chairman; Galen B. Royer, Secretary; D. L. Miller, Treasurer.

#### Report of Auditing Committee.

Mt. Morris, Ill., May 11, 1896.

To Annual Meeting of 1896:

We, the undersigned committee, appointed by Annual Meeting of 1895 to audit the General Missionary and Tract Committee's books, have examined the same and found them correct. We examined the securities and found all notes and mortgages made to the order of the Committee. All moneys are credited to the accounts for which they were received, and in no instance were any individual credits made.

John C. Mellinger,  
Aaron L. Clair,  
L. R. Peifer.

Accepted and approved by the Annual Meeting.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

##### Resolutions of the Germantown Church.

Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa., May 20, 1896.

To the Annual Meeting, at Ottawa, Kans.:—

Resolved, That we, the members of the Germantown Brethren church, in meeting assembled, hereby petition the Annual Meeting of the Brethren church to appoint a properly constituted Board of Trust to hold the real estate occupied by the old church buildings and graveyard in trust forever, for the benefit and use only of said Germantown church.

The above trust to be subject to such conditions as shall be



mutually agreed upon between said Board of Trust and the said Germantown church.

Signed in behalf of the church:

F. W. Price, Church Clerk.

Answer: We recommend that the Trustees of the General Brotherhood hold the property in trust for the Germantown church.

**Resolution Concerning St. Louis Church Property.**

Copy of a Resolution Passed by the Nettle Creek Church, July 13, 1895.

At a called meeting of the religious organization known as the General Brotherhood of the German Baptist Brethren church, held on the 13th day of July, 1895, Lewis Kinsey was chosen Chairman, and Benjamin F. Koons was chosen Secretary of said meeting.

It appearing that James Quinter is dead, to whom was conveyed, as trustee of said church, certain real estate situated in the City of St. Louis, the same being acquired from John Metzger as grantor, and conveyed to Enoch Eby, James Quinter and John Wise, trustees of said church, grantees, the said deed being dated August 24th, 1883, and recorded in book 717, page 414, in the recorder's office of said city, thereupon, on motion duly seconded, Eld. L. W. Teeter was unanimously elected by the members of said church as trustee and moderator, to succeed the said James Quinter, deceased.

It was further moved and seconded, and a resolution unanimously adopted by the said members of the said church, that the said Eld. L. W. Teeter, the newly-elected trustee, in conjunction with Enoch Eby and John Wise, surviving trustees, be authorized and directed to make, execute, and deliver a good and sufficient deed to the said real estate above mentioned, to G. W. Hide, W. R. L. Smith and J. C. Armstrong, Trustees of Home Mission Board of Southern Baptist Convention, in consideration of the sum of three thousand dollars, to be paid to said trustees of said church.

In witness whereof the said Lewis Kinsey, Chairman, has hereto set his hand and affixed his seal, this 13th day of July, 1895.

Lewis Kinsey. [Seal.]

Attest: Benjamin F. Koons, Secretary.

**Certificate of Moderator and Secretary of the General Conference of  
German Baptist Brethren Church, held at Ottawa, Kans.,  
May 26-29, 1896.**

This is to certify that the foregoing resolution, together with



the action of the Nettle Creek church, as therein indicated, and thereto witnessed, was unanimously approved and passed by the above-said Conference this 26th day of May, 1896.

Signed in witness thereof by: D. E. Price, Moderator; D. L. Miller, Secretary.

Accepted by Annual Meeting.

**Reports of School Visiting Committees.**

Mt. Morris, Ill.

We, your committee appointed to look after the moral and religious influence of the Mt. Morris School, submit the following:

After visiting the school once each term, as directed by Annual Meeting, we are glad to report the school in a fair condition in a general way. Since a friendly interview with the trustees and faculty, one year ago, a noticeable improvement has been made on the dress question among the members of the faculty, both in spirit and practice, and, with but one exception, they are all members of the church.

While we are glad to note an improvement in the faculty, yet in a general way there is room for more improvement along this line. The Silver Creek church has lately taken steps to suppress the growing evil of pride, both in the school and church; hence, all is being done that can be done to bring about the desired end.

Our earnest desire and prayer is that the Lord will direct this Annual Meeting in the adoption of the best methods and means for the protection of all her interests, especially so far as relates to the school question.

D. B. Eby, Clerk.

George D. Zollers.

McPherson, Kans.

Part of Visiting Board met with the school in February, during the Bible Normal; found the school in a good condition, morally and spiritually. The Bible Department was ably conducted in the different classes, and much wholesome instruction was received by those in attendance.

We again visited the school in May, all members of the Board present. We were kindly received and courteously entertained by the faculty and friends of the school.

The moral status of the school we consider of a very high standard.

Religiously, we found the members active, having their regular



prayer meetings and preaching services, and seemingly manifest a deep interest in the spiritual development and advancement of the Master's cause.

John Wise, Foreman,  
L. W. Fitzwater,  
Chas. M. Yearout, Sec.

Bridgewater, Va.

We, your committee, appointed to visit Bridgewater College, would make the following report:

1. The school, we think, is in a fairly good condition, both morally and religiously.

2. The faculty are all members of the Brethren church, and seem to unite their labors to maintain the reputation of the school.

3. Religious services are attended daily in the Chapel, and on Sunday three services are regularly held. At all of these, faculty and students are required to be present, except prayer meeting; it is left optional.

4. We are glad to note that there has been some improvement, both by faculty and students, who are members of the church, in regard to conforming to the order of the church in dress, however there is room for more.

5. The school was visited officially three times during the year,—in September, 1895, in January and in March, 1896. At the first two visits L. A. Wenger and Jos. M. Kline were there; at the last visit the committee was full.

Respectfully submitted, J. P. Zigler, J. M. Cline.

Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pa.

We, your committee to visit Juniata College, of Huntingdon, Pa., submit the following:

1. We find the school workers strong in the faith and doctrine of the Brethren.

2. The Bible terms are still maintained and are in the hands of competent teachers.

3. The doctrines of the church have been made a specialty in preaching at stated times, conducted by able brethren.

4. The teaching of the Bible is continued throughout the terms, the same as other branches of study; but no special training for the ministry.

5. The Chapel service is continued daily and is conducted devoutly as becometh the house of the Lord.



6. While we cannot report a strict conformity to the order of the church in dress, yet there is a decided improvement over former years, and, upon the whole, the teaching and practice of the brethren and sisters, connected with the school, compared favorably with the churches of the District.

7. We were present when the committee from Annual Meeting investigated the charges brought against the church and school, and heartily concur in vindicating them against the unfounded rumors circulated.

8. We feel happy to report the school in a prosperous condition, and we recommend it to the patronage of the Brotherhood.

Jas. A. Sell,  
S. J. Swigart.

Huntingdon, Pa., April 30, 1896.

#### Committees Appointed.

We recommend Standing Committee to appoint a committee of three to draft a memorial to the King of Sweden in behalf of our brethren who have been imprisoned because of their principles of faith.

Granted, and D. L. Miller, G. B. Royer and J. H. Moore, appointed.

Missionary and Tract Committee for three years: Enoch Eby, D. L. Miller.

Committee on credentials: J. H. Longanecker, L. W. Teeter, D. Vaniman.

Tract Examining Committee: J. H. Moore, five years; L. W. Teeter, to fill vacancy caused by D. L. Miller's resignation.

#### School Visiting Committees:

Huntingdon, Pa., Edmund Book.

Bridgewater, Va., J. P. Zigler.

Mt. Morris, Ill., P. R. Keltner.

McPherson, Kans., John Wise, C. S. Holsinger.

Lordsburg, Cal., Samuel Henry. Bro. Gible was relieved as member of the Visiting Board, and J. S. Mohler appointed in his place.

North Manchester, Ind., J. H. Wright, three years; Dorsey Hodgden, two years; Jacob Fisher, one year.

#### Committees to Churches:

McPherson, Kans., D. L. Miller, W. R. Deeter, S. B. Shirkey.

Newton, Kans., D. L. Miller, W. R. Deeter, S. B. Shirkey.



Washington, D. C., D. B. Arnold, P. S. Miller, J. A. Sell.

Logan church, Ohio, W. R. Deeter, L. W. Teeter, Dorsey Hodgden.

Pine Creek, Ill., L. T. Holsinger, L. H. Dickey, D. F. Hoover.

Pleasant Hill and Blue Ridge churches, Ill., J. H. Moore, John Zuck, L. W. Teeter.

S. H. Myers' resignation as Treasurer of Annual Meeting accepted, and Jos. Amick appointed to fill vacancy.

Committee on divorce question: S. Z. Sharp, J. H. Longanecker, Daniel Hays, L. W. Teeter, J. H. Moore.

Sunday School Advisory Committee: I. B. Trout, three years; A. C. Wieand, two years; I. N. H. Beahm, one year.

Committee on rebaptism: D. L. Miller, G. S. Arnold, E. S. Brunner, John Wise, H. E. Light.

Providing for retired missionaries: D. Vaniman, H. B. Brumbaugh, J. P. Zigler.

Member of Messenger Advisory Committee, Enoch Eby.

Committee on resolutions: Amsey Puterbaugh, J. H. Moore, S. Z. Sharp.

### Appointments and Decisions.

Missionaries to Foreign Field.—Bro. E. B. Hoff and wife, sister Susie Slusher. Unanimously accepted by Standing Committee and Annual Meeting.

Bro. A. M. Dickey, bill for committee work at Sidney, Nebr., allowed.

### Calls for Annual Meeting.

(1) First District of Virginia, 1898 or 1899. (2) Second District of Virginia, 1899. (3) Eastern District of Maryland, 1897. (4) Middle Indiana, 1897. (5) Northern Illinois, 1897. (6) Southern Illinois, 1900. (7) Middle Missouri, 1897. (8) California, 1897, or as soon thereafter as possible. (9) Northern Indiana, 1897, or as soon thereafter as possible.

The Annual Meeting for 1897 will be held in the Eastern District of Maryland.

### Report of Committees.

The report of the Committee to the churches in Western Pennsylvania read and accepted and Committee continued.

The report of the Committee to Eastern Pennsylvania was ac-



cepted and the Committee continued and urged to make greater effort to bring about a conformity to the order of the church in dress.

### Report of Minutes Sold.

Receipts for Minutes sold, .....	\$359 99
Expenses on Minutes, .....	219 99
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Balance on hand, .....	\$140 00
Balance uncollected on Minutes sold, .....	54 98

### Resolutions.

Resolved, that we, the members of the German Baptist Brethren church, assembled in Annual Conference at Ottawa, Kans., hereby express our gratitude.

1. To our Heavenly Father for his care and mercies during this meeting.

2. To the Committee of Arrangements and their self-sacrificing assistants for their untiring efforts to provide for our comforts.

3. To the citizens of Ottawa, who so kindly received us into their homes and aided in the arrangements for the success of this meeting.

4. To the civil authorities for their protection and excellent order maintained.

5. To all railroads that granted favors to our people, and especially to the roads in Kansas who gave us a generous donation.

6. To the Park Association for the free use of their commodious and well-arranged grounds and buildings.

### Standing Committee for 1896.

Henry Sheets,	W. K. Simmons,	John M. Follis,
W. H. Naff,	Tobias Hoover,	Stephen Johnson,
P. S. Miller,	L. H. Dickey,	Harvey Ikenberry,
J. P. Zigler,	Geo. L. Studebaker,	Isaiah Rairigh,
G. S. Arnold,	S. S. Ulrey,	J. L. Snavelly,
E. W. Stoner,	I. D. Parker,	Archy VanDyke,
S. H. Utz,	D. E. Price,	W. B. Sell,
Eli Yourtee,	P. R. Keltner,	C. S. Holsinger,
F. P. Cassel,	D. B. Gibson,	John Wise,
Jacob Hollinger,	Geo. Barnhart,	M. M. Ennis,
Jas. A. Sell,	D. M. Mohler,	J. W. Metzger,
G. S. Rairigh,	J. E. Ellenberger,	C. Hope.



D. E. Price, Moderator; L. H. Dickey, Reading Clerk; D. L. Miller, I. D. Parker, Writing Clerks.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1897.

Frederick, Md.

The Standing Committee organized by electing Bro. L. W. Teeter, of Hagerstown, Ind., Moderator; Bro. Daniel Hays, Broadway, Va., Reading Clerk; Bro. J. H. Moore, Mt. Morris, Ill., Writing Clerk.

The General Conference was opened at 8 A. M., June 8, by the usual devotional exercises.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

1. As there is a pressing demand for Bro. Fercken to be allowed to receive into church fellowship, without rebaptism, such adult applicants as were baptized by trine immersion for remission of sins by the Greeks and Armenians, and are willing to adopt our faith and practice, we recommend that a committee of five be appointed to look into the question of rebaptism as it relates to the Asia Minor Mission, and report to the next Annual Meeting.

Passed Annual Meeting and referred to the following committee: D. L. Miller, G. S. Arnold, E. S. Bruner, John Wise, H. E. Light.

The following report from the committee was adopted:

Your committee on rebaptism, appointed by the Conference held at Ottawa, Kans., 1896, respectfully submit the following report: After a careful investigation of the question, as it refers to the Greeks and Armenians, we find that a change will not materially affect our work in Asia Minor; we decide to adhere to former decisions.

2. No provision has been made for the support of missionaries, who, through their labors in the mission field, have become disabled.

Answer: We recommend that a committee of three be appointed to draft a plan to provide for disabled missionaries and report same to Annual Meeting of 1897.

Passed Annual Meeting and referred to a committee who now present the following:

To the Annual Meeting of 1897:—

Your committee, appointed by Annual Meeting of 1896, to



devise a plan for the support of disabled missionaries, respectfully submit the following:

(1) That Standing Committee shall nominate, and Annual Meeting approve and perpetuate, a committee of five members, living sufficiently near each other for frequent consultation, to serve for a term of three years, except those first appointed, one of whom shall serve one year; two, two years; and two, three years. That they be lawfully incorporated "The Brethren's General Benevolence Committee."

(2) That the Committee shall meet as often as necessary to carry on its work successfully, shall elect its own officers, make its own by-laws, fill all vacancies that may incidentally occur in the Committee, inform Standing Committee each year whose time has expired, and, through Standing Committee, recommend to Annual Meeting for adoption anything necessary to forward its work.

(3) That the object of this Committee shall be to provide ways and means to assist worthy disabled and superannuated missionaries and ministers of the Brethren church and their families, who have no other sufficient means of support; and to give reliable information to the churches, in cases of general destitution or public calamities, in which Christian duty prompts us to render assistance and direct the distribution of such charities.

(4) Their duty shall be to solicit and receive any donations, bequests, grants or funds needed for such general benevolence, and administer them, and the proceeds therefrom, so far as practicable, in harmony with the desires of the donors.

(5) Any donations, bequests, grants or funds received, and not specified for a special purpose, shall be invested and used where most needed on any line or lines of general benevolence, in harmony with the principle taught in Gal. 6: 10, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

(6) All missionary claimants should have recommendations from General or District Missionary Committee, and all ministerial claimants from their District Meeting.

(7) That each congregation, on some Sunday in August of each year, or at their harvest-meeting, take up a collection for this cause, the object of which should be fully explained by the Committee through printed circulars. These should be read by the ministers, and the obligation emphasized.

(8) That the Committee shall receipt for all funds received,



and report all receipts and expenditures of each year to Annual Meeting.

Daniel Vaniman, H. B. Brumbaugh, J. P. Zigler.

Answer: The report was received and ordered spread on the Minutes as deferred matter for one year.

3. We, the brethren and sisters of the Brummett's Creek church, N. C., petition District Meeting to urge Annual Meeting to make a decision on the divorce question, in order to avoid trouble in the churches, as it was indefinitely postponed by Annual Meeting of '91.

Answer: In view of the very grave nature of the question, we ask Annual Meeting to appoint a committee of five, to carefully and prayerfully frame an answer to the paper and report the same to this meeting, if possible, and if not, to Annual Meeting of 1897.

Referred to a committee composed of S. Z. Sharp, J. H. Longanecker, Daniel Hays, L. W. Teeter, J. H. Moore.

The New Testament teaches:

1. That a divorce cannot be obtained except "for the cause of fornication." Matt. 5: 32.

2. That "whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery." Matt. 19: 9.

We therefore decide that no divorced person having married again while a former companion is living, can be received into the church, or held as a member, unless it can be clearly shown that said companion was put away because of fornication.

All the churches are hereby urged to exercise the utmost care in applying this decision in all cases of divorce, and to do everything possible to uphold and maintain the sacredness and purity of the marriage relation.

S. Z. Sharp, J. H. Longanecker, L. W. Teeter,  
D. Hays, J. H. Moore, Committee.

Answer: The report was ordered spread on the Minutes, as deferred matter, one year.

### Queries.

1. We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to appoint a Financial Secretary, whose term of office shall be three years, and whose duties shall be as follows:

(1) To assist Committee of Arrangements each year in locating and managing the Annual Meeting in the best and most economical way.



(2) Keep in a suitable book an accurate account of the principal articles required each year, where and how purchased, how disposed of, with plans of buildings and such other items as might be of value to others in the management of the meeting.

Answer: Request granted, and Lewis J. Hooke, of Stockport, Indiana, appointed Financial Secretary.

2. We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting that all land advertisements be excluded from the Gospel Messenger, as it has a tendency to mislead some.

Answer. We consider that it would not be proper to exclude all land advertisements; but to admit such only that will bear the strictest scrutiny as regards being for the good and use of all, whether of land or anything else.

3. Inasmuch as the wearing of hats by the sisters is made a test of fellowship, while the brethren are allowed to wear many of the styles and fashions, and still retain their membership; and, whereas, the above apparent inconsistency is causing dissatisfaction in parts of the Brotherhood, therefore, we, the Milledgeville church, ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to devise some means whereby this inconsistency may be removed.

The paper was submitted to a committee, who reported as follows:

Owing to the importance of the question submitted, your committee ask for time until next Annual Meeting to carefully consider this query, and advise, in the meantime, that our elders and ministers maintain the order of the church.

D. L. Miller, L. T. Holsinger, Jacob Witmore, S. J. Bowman, J. H. Longanecker, Committee.

Report accepted by Annual Meeting.

4. We ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to adopt a blank form of report for the use of visiting committees to our colleges.

A committee was appointed and reported as follows:

We, your committee, appointed to offer a "blank form of report for the use of visiting committees to our colleges," submit the following: After considering the magnitude of the work assigned us, and the results accruing from a proper report of our colleges, we ask for one year in which to formulate the blank.

I. Bennett Trout, S. J. Swigart, L. A. Wenger, Committee.

Report accepted by Annual Meeting.

5. Inasmuch as there is no provision made as to who shall



pay the expenses of committees of adjoining elders, called by individual members to investigate the work of churches, we ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to decide that the party found in fault shall pay all expenses.

Answer: The elders called shall decide whose duty it is to pay the expenses.

6. As the Brethren give Sunday-school treats in various parts of the Brotherhood, such as books, cards, candy, oranges, etc., causing some dissatisfaction, and as there are no decisions on that question, we, the Fort Scott church, ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to say if it is right to give such treats.

Answer: While we do not object to proper Sunday-school presents, we do object to making a public display of such presents.

7. The Bethel church asks Annual Meeting through District Meeting, if Minutes of 1882, Art. 22, deprives the Sunday-school workers of a District from meeting in conference to discuss Sunday-school interests? If so, will Annual Meeting reconsider said query and grant the members the privilege of doing so?

Answer: We reconsider and decide that Sunday-school meetings, to advance the Sunday-school cause, may be held, provided they be kept within the bounds of Christian propriety, and be conducted in harmony with the principles held by the Brotherhood.

8. We ask annual Meeting through District Meeting to reconsider her former ruling, and so amend the same that no one shall serve as an officer of Annual Meeting, or as a member of Standing Committee, two years in succession.

Answer: We consider and grant the request asked for.

9. Inasmuch as the Savior, in Matt. 26: 26 and Mark 14: 22, connects the Supper and the Communion, we therefore petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting of Northeastern Kansas, to place the reading of the chapter to some other stage of the meeting, and the salutation at the close, just before general thanks are given.

(9) West Otter Creek church asks Annual Meeting through District Meeting to drop the salutation between the Supper and the Communion and observe it at the close of the service. See Matt. 26: 26; Mark 14: 22; John 13: 34.

(9) Would it not be better and more in harmony with the scriptures to omit the kiss at our love feasts until all the ordinances have been attended to?



Answer: These papers were submitted to the following committee, to report at the next Annual Meeting: L. T. Holsinger, James A. Sell, Andrew Hutchinson, J. B. Pence, Daniel Hays.

10. A number of queries, pertaining to trafficking on the Annual Meeting grounds, were submitted to a committee, who presented the following, which was adopted by the Conference:

Your committee, appointed to consider a number of papers referring to unnecessary trafficking, etc., on and about Annual Meeting grounds, submit the following:

We decide,

(a) That photographing, in all its forms, the exhibition and sale of merchandise by the Brethren, on or about the grounds, except that necessary for the meeting and the circulation of the Brethren's literature, be not allowed.

(b) That the Annual Meeting enter her protest against those not Brethren in bringing their goods near the grounds for exhibition and sale.

(c) That Brethren be not allowed to use the influence of the church in emigration schemes, and that Brethren be cautioned against using undue personal influence in matters of this kind.

11. Solomon's Creek church petitions Annual Meeting through District Meeting to reduce the price of meals at Annual Meeting.

Answer: We grant to Financial Secretary and Committee of Arrangements the right to reduce the price of meals.

12. Whereas the tendency of the times is to disregard the Lord's Day, and whereas our General Conference brings a large number of people together on the Lord's Day, previous to the opening of the council:—Resolved, that the Huntingdon church ask the District Meeting to request the Annual Meeting to make increased efforts to have this day more sacredly regarded; that nothing but the merest necessities be sold or furnished on the grounds; that the post-office be closed; that the sale of newspapers be prohibited; that our people, in coming, be urged to make their arrangements so that they need not arrive on Sunday, thus removing any encouragement, on our part, to the running of Sunday excursion trains, and that the general conduct of the day, in our social minglings, be as much in keeping with the intent of this Christian institution, as possible, that it may be a quiet, worshipful and spiritual Sabbath.

Answer: We are heartily in sympathy with this paper, and earnestly urge our members to make every possible effort to put into practice the suggestions made.



13. Whereas a special meeting held in Indiana, in 1848, has advised congregations how to proceed with applicants for baptism coming from other congregations (see Art. 7, Classified Minutes, page 153), the church at York, Pa., asks Annual Meeting through District Meeting, whether this minute is considered binding and if so, whether it applies to those congregations in which the Brethren's schools are located, as well as to all other congregations.

Answer: We consider that the decision does not apply, as a general rule, and yet there may be special cases demanding the caution intended in the article.

14. Whereas the Word of God forbids the wearing of gold (see 1 Tim. 2: 9, and 1 Pet. 3: 3, also Minutes of Annual Meeting, of 1864, Art. 7, and 1891, Art. 19½), therefore, we, the White Oak church of Eastern Pennsylvania, ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting, to authorize the Committee on Credentials to ask the delegates to District and Annual Meetings whether they are wearing gold in any way of appearance, thereby violating the Word of God.

Answer: Petition granted by the Annual Meeting.

15. Whereas our Annual Meeting Minutes contain so many Minutes which are obsolete by virtue of later decisions; would it not be better to publish in book-form only such Minutes as are now in force?

Answer: A committee, composed of the following, were appointed to report to the next Annual Meeting a plan, with metes and bounds, for carrying out the request: D. L. Miller, L. T. Holsinger, D. E. Price.

#### **Annual Report of the General Missionary and Tract Committee to the Annual Meeting of 1897.**

The foreign fields, under the Committee, have obtained very satisfactory results during the year. At the close, Sweden has 113 members; Denmark, 89; Asia Minor, 14; and India, 3. During the year 8 were received by baptism in Sweden, 7 in Denmark, and 8 in Asia Minor. The Orphanage at Smyrna, with 25 inmates, has been quite successful, even during the past year of troublesome times. While there have been no accessions in India, the faith has been more fully established, and it is reasonable to believe that a harvest will soon be realized.\*

In America, the missions in Washington, D. C., Germantown, Pa., Chicago, Ill., Arkansas, Southern Missouri, Florida, and Alabama have been carried on with unabated interest. At most of

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\*Since the report was prepared, 11 in India and 3 in Asia Minor have been received by baptism.



these places a number have been received into church fellowship,—a total for all the points of 48 by baptism and a number by letter.

Tract distribution has been maintained at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Hutchinson, Kans., Washington, D. C., Staunton, Va., York, Pa., and in Arkansas, with good results. The sisters have entered homes, conversed on religious subjects, and succeeded in gathering many new ones to the church services.

The Chicago Children's Mission has had an encouraging growth in interest and attendance. The friends of the mission have contributed liberally both money and clothing, and special attention has been given to the parents of the children who attend the mission, with good results.

In Brooklyn, N. Y., the Committee has opened a mission, and several have been received into church fellowship. This seems to be a promising point for future work.

### FINANCIAL.

#### Donations for Building Meetinghouses.

Bellewood, Pa., .....	\$ 100 00	Osceola, Mo., .....	\$ 125 00
Cando, N. Dak., .....	100 00	Batavia, Ill., .....	300 00
Piney Flats, Tenn., ....	50 00	Palestine, Ind., .....	100 00
Los Angeles, Cal., .....	150 00		
Wannaberga, Sweden, ..	82 50	Total, .....	\$1,107 50
Kidder, Mo., .....	100 00		

#### Loans on Meetinghouses.

Cando, N. Dak., .....	\$ 200 00	Batavia, Ill., .....	\$ 450 00
Piney Flats, Tenn., ....	50 00	Kidder, Mo., .....	100 00
Bellewood, Pa., .....	200 00		
Los Angeles, Cal., .....	150 00	Total, .....	\$1,250 00
Palestine, Ind., .....	100 00		

#### Assistance to State Districts.

Texas, .....	\$ 400 00
California, .....	100 00
Northwestern Kansas and Colorado, .....	100 00
Southwestern Kansas and Colorado, .....	250 00
Northeastern Kansas, .....	150 00
Middle Iowa, .....	400 00
Oregon, Idaho and Washington, .....	200 00
Eastern Pennsylvania, .....	150 00
Total, .....	\$1,750 00

#### Summary.

Assistance to State Districts, .....	8
Assistance to meetinghouses by donation, .....	9



Assistance to meetinghouses by loan, .....	7
Received into membership in all fields, .....	71

### Receipts and Expenditures.

#### World-wide Fund.

##### Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of year, .....		\$ 2,794 63
Donations, interests, general income, .....	\$7,433 15	
Income Covina, Cal., farm, .....	1,213 15	
Meetinghouse Bills Receivable, .....	414 15	
Mission to Indians in America, .....	1 03	
Mission to Negroes in America, .....	50	
Mission to Negroes in Africa, .....	1 00	9,062 95
Total, .....		\$11,857 58

##### Expenditures:

Assistance to State Districts, .....	\$1,750 00	
Donations for meetinghouses, .....	1,107 50	
Loans for meetinghouses, .....	1,250 00	
Danish Mission, .....	647 04	
Swedish Mission, .....	816 61	
Arkansas, .....	610 08	
Louisiana, .....	93 35	
Florida, .....	211 10	
Alabama, .....	61 10	
Washington City, .....	782 27	
Germantown, .....	318 64	
Chicago, .....	879 18	
Scandinavian Mission in America, .....	377 86	
Missionary Visitor, .....	108 60	
Attorney's fees, etc., .....	50 25	
One-half Committee's traveling expenses, ..	177 63	
Committees sent by Annual Meeting, .....	273 76	
Traveling Secretaries, .....	468 45	
Secretary's salary, .....	150 00	
Earned on Stutzman investment, .....	260 00	
Credited to Fairview church loan, .....	10 00	
Office fixtures, .....	75 00	\$10,478 42
Balance on hand, .....		\$ 1,379 16

#### Book and Tract Fund.

##### Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of year, .....		\$1,767 98
Donations, interests, etc., .....	\$2,377 91	
Earnings of the office, .....	742 60	3,120 51
Total, .....		\$4,888 49

##### Expenditures:

Printing and sending out tracts, .....	\$ 780 99
Tract agents' services, .....	949 98
Rebate on tracts, .....	761 62
Office work, bookkeeping, etc., .....	551 93



Traveling expenses, Examining Committee, \$	75 20	
One-half Committee's traveling expenses, ..	177 63	
Missionary Gospel Messengers, .....	531 02	
Danish and Swedish Hymn Book, .....	\$ 212 94	\$4,041 31

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Balance on hand, .....		\$ 847 18
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#### India Fund.

##### Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of year, .....		\$ 360 01
Donations, interests, etc., .....	\$1,596 32	
Mission home in India, .....	22 00	1,618 32

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Total, .....		\$1,978 33
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##### Expenditures:

Sent to missionaries,* .....	\$1,000 00	
Preparatory work in America, .....	25 50	\$1,025 50

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Balance on hand, .....		\$ 952 83
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#### Asia Minor Mission.

##### Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of year, .....	\$1,155 52	
Donations, .....	589 74	

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Total, .....		\$1,745 26
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##### Expenditures:

†Living, rents, etc., .....		1,406 80
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Balance, .....		\$ 338 46
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#### Orphanage.

##### Receipts:

Donations, .....		\$3,036 99
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##### Expenditures:

For the orphans and their instruction, .....	\$897 25	
Furnishing home for orphans, .....	350 00	\$1,247 25

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Balance on hand, .....		\$1,789 74
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#### Washington Meetinghouse Fund.

##### Receipts:

Balance on hand from last year, .....	\$1,697 77	
Donations, .....	3,114 73	

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Total, .....		\$4,812 50
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##### Expenditures:

For property and deed, etc., .....		\$6,077 64
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Overpaid balance, .....		\$1,265 14
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\*Over \$400 of this belongs to next year's work.

†\$555.80 of this amount belongs to the following year.



## Denmark Poor Fund.

## Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of year, .....\$232 86

Interest, receipts, ..... 130 20

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 Total, ..... \$ 363 06

## Expenditures:

Assistance in Brooklyn N. Y., .....\$ 6 00

Balance on hand, ..... 357 06

## World-Wide Endowment.

## Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of year, ..... \$ 274 50

Paid-in endowment, .....\$ 635 00

Bills Receivable, ..... 3,700 00

Transferred by donor to Brethren Publishing

House, ..... 500 00 4,835 00

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 Total, ..... \$5,109 50

## Expenditures:

Bills Receivable, ..... 100 00

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 Balance on hand, .....\$5,009 50

## Book and Tract Endowment.

## Receipts:

Paid-in endowment, .....\$1,701 16

Bills Receivable, ..... 7,150 00

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 Total, .....\$8,851 16

## Expenditures:

Overpaid balance of last year, .....\$ 73 00

Bills Receivable, ..... 9,500 00

Transferred by donor to Brethren Publishing

House, ..... 500 00 10,073 00

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 Overpaid balance, ..... \$1,221 84

## Statement of Cash on Hand.

World-Wide Fund, .....\$1,379 16

Tract Fund, ..... 847 18

India Fund, ..... 952 83

Asia Minor Fund, ..... 338 46

Orphanage at Smyrna, Asia Minor, ..... 1,789 74

Washington Meetinghouse Fund, overpaid, ..... \$1,265 14

Denmark Poor Fund, ..... 357 06

World-Wide Endowment, ..... 5,009 50

Book and Tract Endowment, overpaid, ..... 1,221 84

India Endowment, ..... 50 00

India Sufferers, ..... 67 95

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 \$10,791 88 \$2,486 98

Less overpaid, ..... 2,486 98

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 Cash on hand, ..... \$8,304 90



The total output of tracts for the eleven months is 1,964,261 pages.

#### Assets.

World-Wide Fund, .....	\$ 6,188	51	
Chicago Home Building Fund, .....	64	55	
Book and Tract Fund, .....	847	18	
Asia Minor Fund, .....	338	46	
Orphanage at Smyrna, .....	1,789	74	
India Sufferers, .....	67	95	
Denmark Poor Fund, .....	1,957	06	
India Fund and Endowment, .....	7,277	83	
Inventory of office, .....	1,501	00	
World-Wide Endowment, .....	29,432	86	
Book and Tract Endowment, .....	17,554	66	
Value of Real Estate above investment, .....	30,000	00	
Brethren Publishing House, .....	50,240	00	
Pledged Endowment, interest and non-interest-bearing, .....	78,022	50	\$227,282 30
Less amount due on Washington meeting-house and lot, .....			1,265 14

Net assets, .....\$224,017 16

Examined and approved by Auditing Committee:

John C. Mellinger, Lewis R. Peifer, Aaron L. Clair.

#### The Publishing Department.

April 1, 1897, the Brethren's Publishing Company transferred to the General Missionary and Tract Committee all its right, title and interest in the publishing business of the church, and the Brethren's Publishing Company was thereupon dissolved, and ceased to have a corporate existence. An inventory was taken with the following results,

Cash on hand, .....	\$ 6,414	58
Engine, Presses, Machinery, .....	4,492	04
Type, Cases, Electrotypes, etc., .....	9,831	91
Stock, including paper, etc., .....	1,342	97
Merchandise, including Bibles, .....	2,426	87
Office Fixtures, .....	412	50
Ledger Accounts, .....	8,836	75
Delinquent Subscriptions and Accounts, .....	16,504	16

Total, .....\$50,261 78

This inventory shows only the actual cash, machinery, presses, type, printing paper, book accounts, etc., on hand and turned over to the Committee on the first day of April. Nothing is set down for the business, and its earning power, built up by long years of hard work and the expenditure of a large sum of money. Taken at a low rate, and following the rule in estimating values of this character,



\$50,000 should be added for the business. This is borne out by the fact that the business has had, in recent years, an earning power of not less than twelve per cent on the capital stock.

The Committee is to pay an annuity of from five to six per cent to the donors on \$37,500 during their life-time, and then all payments are to cease. In addition to this, the Committee has in hand additional donations in fee simple, estimated at \$13,000. This sum can be invested and the interest used in paying the annuities in part, so that the actual sum upon which annuity is to be paid is about \$25,000. Since the donations were made, two of those especially interested in this important work have gone to their reward.

Our entire publishing business is now under the management and control of the General Missionary and Tract Committee. The same Executive Committee, that so successfully managed the business for the stock company, continues in charge, and it is hoped of all concerned that this valuable acquisition may prove an important factor in spreading the Truth, and a great help and blessing to the church.

### Still Growing.

While Boards of other denominations were compelled to retrench, on account of lack of means, contributions to the several funds, under the direction of the Committee, have, on the whole, been increasing encouragingly, as the table herewith clearly shows. It should be borne in mind, in studying the table, that this report covers only eleven months, against twelve months of the preceding year, and, to make a fair comparison, the April donations in one amount are added to the increase, though they do not appear elsewhere in this report.

Fund.	1896.	1897.	Increase.	Decrease.
World-Wide Fund, .....	\$ 8,697 80	\$ 8,640 30		\$ 57 50
Tract Fund, .....	4,270 60	3,120 51		1,150 09
Washington Meetinghouse,	667 90	3,114 73	\$2,446 83	
India Fund, .....	1,689 66	1,596 32		93 34
Asia Minor Fund, .....	2,513 62	589 74		1,923 88
Orphanage at Smyrna, ....		3,036 99	3,036 99	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$17,839 58	\$20,098 59	\$5,483 82	\$3,224 81
		17,839 58	3,224 81	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	
Increase for eleven months this year,		\$ 2,259 01	\$2,259 01	
Donations for April, 1897,		1,762 80		
		<hr/>		
Real increase on same basis,		\$ 4,021 81		



While funds for special purposes have greatly increased, it is gratifying to note that the World-Wide Fund materially held its own in the eleven months' donations, and the increase on the entire is good.

Praise the Lord for this increased interest! And let every worker, young and old, rich and poor, put anew his shoulder to the wheel of God's chariot, now carrying the glad tidings to many benighted souls! And let us all pray and work for the new year in such a manner that still more successes may be made for the glorious cause!

Enoch Eby,  
D. L. Miller,  
S. R. Zug,  
S. F. Sanger,  
Isaac Frantz,  
Committee.

#### Report of Auditing Committee.

Mt. Morris, Ill., May 8, 1897.

We, the undersigned committee, appointed by the Annual Meeting to audit the General Missionary and Tract Committee's books, have examined the same and found them correct. We find all notes and mortgages made payable to the Committee. All moneys are credited to the accounts for which they were received. We have examined the inventory of the Publishing House assets, and find them as reported. We have also examined the bond and security for \$50,000, executed by D. L. Miller, the Treasurer, and found the same to be amply sufficient.

John C. Mellinger, Lewis R. Peifer, Aaron L. Clair.

Both reports were accepted by Annual Meeting.

#### Report of Treasurer of Annual Meeting.

##### Receipts:

Surplus Annual Meeting Minutes of 1895, .....	\$140 00
I. J. Rosenberger, Annual Meeting Minutes of	
1895, .....	2 00
Samuel H. Myers (former Treasurer), .....	22 00
Surplus Annual Meeting Minutes of 1896, .....	231 36

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Total, .....	\$395 36
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##### Expenditures:

A. M. Dickey, as per order of Annual Meeting, ..	\$17 00
Chas. M. Yearout, visit to McPherson College, ..	14 00
James A. Sell, visit to Huntingdon College, ..	14 00
L. W. Fitzwater, visit to McPherson College, ....	3 56
John P. Zigler, visit to Bridgewater College, ....	5 35



John Wise, visit to McPherson College ,.....	\$ 5 86	
L. H. Dickey and others, committee to Hunting-		
don, Pa., .....	76 70	
J. C. Murray, visit to Mt. Morris College, .....	6 00	
D. B. Eby, visit to Mt. Morris College, .....	7 00	
George D. Zöllers, visit to Mt. Morris College, ....	13 50	
J. W. Trostle, visit to Sidney church, Nebr., ....	13 00	
John Wise, visit to McPherson College, .....	11 56	\$190 53

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Balance, ..... \$204 83

Joseph Amick, Treasurer.

Report accepted, with the understanding that the Treasurer has his book examined by our Auditing Committee, and their report be presented at the next Annual Meeting.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

##### Report of Committee to Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

The committee of Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia report some improvements in their field of labor. The committee is continued, with instructions to use their best judgment in developing the churches, and bringing into line those that may be out of order.

##### Report of Committee to Eastern Pennsylvania.

The Eastern Pennsylvania Committee reported progress in their work among the churches. The committee is of the opinion that the District is greatly in need of more elders, and that some of the churches should be encouraged to call some of their younger brethren to the ministry, in order that they may be trained and developed for the work that must, in time, fall to them. The report of the committee was accepted, and the committee continued, with instructions to use their judgment, not only in setting in order the things that may be needed, but also look up and correct such irregularities as may be hindrances to their work. The committee is hereby authorized to go into any church in Eastern Pennsylvania where such hindrances may exist.

##### Report of Committee to Pleasant Hill, Ill.

The committee appointed by the last Annual Meeting to visit the Pleasant Hill church, Ill., report that they called on the church, but were respectfully rejected. They now report that the steps since taken by the officers ought to remove all occasion for further complaints, and we deem it unnecessary to return the committee, but we do think that the Pleasant Hill church failed to show due



respect to the Annual Meeting by refusing to accept the committee. We dismiss the committee.

### **Missionaries Approved.**

To Standing Committee:—We respectfully submit the following names as suitable persons to send as missionaries to India: Eld. S. N. McCann, of Virginia; Bro. D. L. Forney and wife, of Arkansas; Wm. M. Howe, of New Jersey; Sister Lizzie Gibbel, of Pennsylvania.

General Missionary and Tract Committee.

Approved by the Standing Committee, on condition that the usual regulations, respecting their appointment, be carried out.

Approved by the Annual Meeting.

### **Committees Appointed.**

Committee on Credentials: Stephen Ulery, P. R. Keltner, S. A. Sanger.

Auditing Committee: John C. Mellinger, Aaron L. Clair, L. R. Peifer, reappointed.

Committee on Resolutions: N. B. Sherfy, I. B. Trout, I. N. H. Beahm.

Sunday-school Committee: I. N. H. Beahm, reappointed.

Examining Committee: L. W. Teeter, appointed for five years. Treasurer of Annual Meeting; Joseph Amick, reappointed.

Missionary and Tract Committee for three years, L. W. Teeter.

Advisory Committee for Gospel Messenger: W. R. Deeter, re-elected.

School Visiting Committees:—

Huntingdon, Pa., Thos. B. Maddock.

Bridgewater, Va., S. A. Sanger.

Mt. Morris, Ill., Franklin Myers. J. C. Murray's resignation was accepted, and I. B. Trout appointed in his place.

McPherson, Kans., T. G. Winey. John Wise's resignation was accepted, and Wm. Johnson appointed to fill the vacancy.

Lordsburg, Cal., Joseph W. Trostle, P. S. Myers.

North Manchester, Ind., Jacob Snell.

Committees to Churches:—

Sunfield church, Eaton Co., Mich., W. R. Deeter, I. L. Berkey, J. C. Murray.

Summitville church, Grant Co., Ind., L. T. Holsinger, Jacob Snell, Samuel Leckrone.



George's Creek church, Pa., W. R. Deeter, Henry Frantz, Samuel J. Swigart.

Cerrogordo church, Ill., D. L. Miller, M. T. Baer, David Hoover, John Zuck, L. T. Holsinger. This committee is to see that the elders of the adjoining churches, and the adjoining elders of these churches, do their duty in regard to setting in order anything that may be to the interest of the cause in that part of the Brotherhood, and, if necessary, assist these adjoining elders, and otherwise use their best judgment in regard to how far to extend their work.

#### Statement of Minutes of Annual Meeting of 1896.

Net proceeds of publication of Annual Meeting Minutes and back account collected, .....	\$231 36
Accounts unpaid, .....	75 84

Total, .....	\$307 20
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Approved by Annual Meeting.

#### Calls for Annual Meeting.

(1) California, 1898. (2) Northern Illinois, 1898. (3) Middle Indiana, 1898, (4) Northwestern Ohio, 1898. (5) Second District of Virginia, 1899. (6) First District of Virginia, 1899.

The next Annual Meeting will be held in the Northern District of Illinois.

#### Resolutions.

Resolved, that the Brethren, assembled in Annual Conference at Frederick, Md., express their thanks and gratitude:

1. To our Heavenly Father for all the blessings and enjoyments which have surrounded this meeting, and especially for the benign influence of the Holy Spirit.

2. To the Committee of Arrangements, and all their subcommittees and helpers, for wise and faithful work.

3. To the citizens of Frederick for all their kindness and hospitality.

4. To the civil authority for maintaining excellent order.

5. To the various churches of Frederick, that opened their houses of worship.

6. To all railroads that have so kindly favored this Annual Meeting.

7. To the Business Men's Association of Frederick for the free use of the grounds, and everything done on their part that has contributed to the success of the meeting.



**Standing Committee for 1897.**

Geo. E. Studebaker,	D. B. Eby,	S. R. Zug,
John Wertz,	Henry Martin,	Nicholas Martin,
Sidney Hodgden,	J. H. Miller,	W. S. Reichard,
J. D. Trostle,	Dorsey Hodgden,	Solomon Stoner,
Isaac Rairigh,	L. W. Teeter.	Z. Annon,
J. E. Ralston,	S. M. Loose,	B. W. Smith,
J. D. Haughtelin,	Edward Loomis,	Daniel Hays,
L. M. Kob,	Henry Frantz,	J. P. Zigler,
David Hilderbrand,	Jasper Barnthouse,	P. S. Miller,
D. M. Mohler,	H. B. Brumbaugh,	Geo. C. Bowman,
Christian Holderman	John Lehner,	J. H. Moore.
Conrad Fitz,		

L. W. Teeter, Moderator.

D. Hays, Reading Clerk.

J. H. Moore, Writing Clerk.

**ANNUAL MEETING OF 1898.**

Burlington Park, Ill.

The Conference was organized by electing Eld. W. R. Deeter, of Milford, Ind., Moderator; Eld. P. R. Keltner, Sterling, Ill., Reading Clerk; Eld. D. L. Miller, Mt. Morris, Ill., Secretary.

The General Council was opened at 8 A. M., May 31, by the usual devotional exercises.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

1. No provision has been made for the support of missionaries, who through their labors in the mission field, have become disabled.

Answer: We recommend that a committee of three be appointed to draft a plan to provide for disabled missionaries and report same to Annual Meeting of 1897.

Report:

(1) That the General Missionary and Tract Committee be authorized and encouraged to solicit and receive additional donations and bequests to the GISH FUND as a suitable and, for the time being, a sufficient plan to assist superannuated and disabled missionaries and ministers of the Brethren Church and their families, who have no other sufficient means of support. Said Committee to decide who is entitled to such assistance and to what extent, all applicants not directly under the care of the Committee to have



recommendations from their home church, and from their District Missionary Committee, or from their District Meeting.

(2) That it be made the duty of the Executive Committee of the Brethren Publishing House to give reliable information and direction to the churches through the press (and otherwise if need be) in cases of general destitution or public calamities in which duty prompts assistance and direct distribution of such charities.

The above report was adopted.

2. We, the brethren and sisters of the Brummett's Creek church, N. C., petition District Meeting to urge Annual Meeting to make a decision on the divorce question, in order to avoid trouble in the churches, as it was indefinitely postponed by Annual Meeting of '91.

Answer: The New Testament teaches:

(1) That a divorce cannot be obtained except "for the cause of fornication," Matt. 5: 32.

(2) That "whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery." Matt. 19: 9.

We therefore decide that no divorced person, having married again while a former companion is living, can be received into the church unless it can be clearly shown that said companion was put away because of fornication.

All the churches are hereby urged to exercise the utmost care in applying this decision in all cases of divorce, and to do everything possible to uphold and maintain the sacredness and purity of the marriage relation.

3. Inasmuch as the wearing of hats by the sisters is made a test of fellowship, while the brethren are allowed to wear many of the styles and fashions, and still retain their membership; and, whereas, the above apparent inconsistency is causing dissatisfaction in parts of the Brotherhood, therefore, we, the Milledgeville church, ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to devise some means whereby this inconsistency may be removed.

Answer:

(1) The inconsistency exists to some slight extent, resulting from a violation of the decisions of Annual Meeting. Upon examination seventy-four decisions covering the various phases of non-conformity to the world in dress and in adorning the body are found on our Minutes. In these decisions very little distinction is made between brethren and sisters. The fault lies in our practice. It must be apparent to all that more decisions will not remove the inconsistency complained of, but rather tend to weaken the authority of our Conference. Not more decisions, but a more intelligent



understanding of the important Gospel principles of non-conformity to the world, plain dressing and plain living is what is needed.

(2) We therefore beseech all elders, ministers and teachers to teach these important Scriptural doctrines earnestly, intelligently, and fully in all their charges, and to make every possible effort to carry them out, so that the church may not depart from these principles that have been so dear to all our faithful members since she was first organized. With these Gospel principles established in the hearts of the people, the desire to conform to the foolish fashions of the world will disappear.

(3) That more teaching may be done in private, elders and ministers are required to carry out fully the decisions of Annual Meeting as to pastoral visit; and the congregations shall assist in the work by giving such financial aid as circumstances may require.

(4) Gospel plainness requires that sisters attire themselves in plainly-made garments free from ornaments, ruffles and all unnecessary appendages. Plain bonnets and hoods are in harmony with Gospel plainness, and are adopted as the head dress for our sisters. The brethren likewise should dress themselves in plain attire, not wearing fashionable hats and neckties, gold for adornment or other superfluities. 1 Tim. 2: 9, 10; 1 Peter 3: 3, 4, 5. It is the duty of all housekeepers to see that the brethren and sisters are properly instructed concerning the necessity of Gospel plainness and it is also their duty to see that the order of the church, respecting plainness, is properly carried out in their respective congregations.

(5) Elders who refuse and neglect to teach and enforce Gospel plainness in their respective congregations shall be reported to the elders of the District whose duty it shall be to see that the principles of non-conformity are carried out in all the churches.

4. We ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to adopt a blank form of report for the use of visiting committees to our colleges.

Answer: We recommend that College Visiting Committees carefully analyze the instructions given by Annual Meeting of 1893, Art. 2, page 3, Classified Minutes, and report in harmony with instructions given in said article.

5. Inasmuch as the Savior, in Matt. 26: 26 and Mark 14: 22, connects the Supper and the Communion, we therefore petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting of Northeastern Kansas, to place the reading of the chapter to some other stage of the meeting, and the salutation at the close, just before general thanks are given.

West Otter Creek church asks Annual Meeting through District Meeting to drop the salutation between the Supper and the Communion and observe it at the close of the service. See Matt. 26: 26; Mark 14: 22; John 13: 34.



Would it not be better and more in harmony with the Scriptures to omit the kiss at our love feasts until all the ordinances have been attended to?

Answer: Decided that the Scriptures referred to in the queries will not justify the change asked for in our Communion services.

6. Whereas our Annual Meeting Minutes contain so many Minutes which are obsolete by virtue of later decisions; would it not be better to publish in book-form only such Minutes as are now in force?

Answer:

We find that one-half of the minutes in our book might be left out without hindrance to our church work. These are of three kinds:

First. Obsolete decisions of a special character, thought necessary at the time to meet conditions which have long ceased to exist.

Second. Minutes which are repetitions of others preceding them, similar in character and of like import.

Third. Committee reports of a historical character, involving no doctrinal question.

We therefore recommend that a committee of three be appointed whose duty it shall be to revise our book of Minutes, leaving out all obsolete decisions, all repetitions of like and similar import, and all reports of committees in which no doctrinal principle is involved. All minutes of a doctrinal character shall be retained. After a revision has been made the book shall be published and sold by the Brethren Publishing House, and said Publishing House pay the expenses incurred in the revision. The committee shall enter upon its duties at once, so that the book may be published as soon as practicable. The minutes in the new book shall be carefully classified, and a copious index be appended.

Committee to revise Minutes: D. L. Miller, D. E. Price, Daniel Hays.

### QUERIES.

7. We ask Annual Meeting of 1898 to define herself concerning the rights and restrictions governing brethren in publishing papers, as to what character of matter they may and may not publish. Sent to the Second District of Virginia for approval by order of the Linville Creek church.

Answer: Such papers, in matter, character and purpose, should be conducted in a way that will not place them in competition with the publications duly authorized by the Annual Conference, and yet not be in opposition to the interest and principles of the Brethren church.



8. (Woodstock congregation, April 21, 1898.) We ask Annual Meeting, through the District Meeting of the Second District of Virginia, to say whether she means in Article 7, 1896, to prohibit brethren from serving as delegates to Annual or District Meeting who use tobacco for medicinal purposes only.

Answer: Yes.

9. Whereas there has been organized, with headquarters at Germantown, a German Baptist Brethren Historical Association, whose object is to collect, preserve and diffuse the history of our church; and whereas this seems to us to be a work that will be of great practical value to the church, therefore the Green Tree church, in conference met, requests the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to forward to the next General Conference of the church, this paper, along with a copy of the Constitution of said Historical Association, requesting said Conference to consider the practicability of incorporating said Historical Association into our church body.

### CONSTITUTION.

#### Article I.—The Name.

The name of this organization shall be the German Baptist Brethren Historical Association.

#### Article II.—Object.

The object of this Association shall be

1. To perpetuate the memory and virtues of the fathers and representative men of the church, and to foster the principles and doctrines of the Bible, as believed and practiced by the church.

2. To collect and preserve, in a suitable place, all manuscripts, documents, books, etc., having reference to the history of the church.

3. To publish and diffuse, in harmony with publishing regulations of the church, such part of the materials gathered, as may be deemed of sufficient importance and general interest.

4. To encourage each local congregation to note important events and to keep and preserve Minutes of church councils and of meetings of Boards of Trustees, to keep a complete list of the membership, including baptisms, marriages, deaths, expulsions, reclamations and the giving and receiving of church letters.

#### Article III.—Membership.

Sec. I.—(Classes and Eligibility.) The members shall consist



of three classes, regular, associate and honorary. All persons in full fellowship with the church are eligible to regular membership. All persons in full fellowship with church organizations which have separated from our own, are eligible to associate membership. All persons of good character, of acknowledged ability in historical research, who are in sympathy with the objects of this Association are eligible to honorary membership.

Sec. II.—(Election of Members.) Names of applicants or of persons proposed for membership shall be presented in writing to a member of the Executive Committee, whose duty it shall be to inquire into the eligibility of such persons and, if found eligible, submit such names to the next regular meeting of the Association. A two-thirds vote of members present shall be necessary to election.

Sec. III.—(Requirements of Members.) On election regular and associate members shall pay a fee of two dollars and sign the constitution. The bequeathal of valuable documents to the Association, or the writing of an approved historical essay will be accepted in lieu of such fee. The annual dues for such members shall be one dollar. The payment of twenty-five dollars shall constitute any such member a life member. Honorary members shall be exempt from all these obligations.

Sec. IV.—(Privileges of Members.) Equal rights and privileges shall be granted to all members, except voting and holding office, which shall be limited to regular members.

#### Article IV.—Officers.

Sec. I.—The officers of this Association shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Custodian and Executive Committee.

Sec. II.—(Election of Officers.)

1. President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Custodian shall be elected at each yearly meeting of the Association.

2. The editors of the Gospel Messenger and the presidents of our several colleges shall be honorary Vice-Presidents.

3. The Executive Committee shall consist of six members, exclusive of the Secretary, who shall be a member ex-officio. At the first election there shall be two elected for one year, two for two years, and two for three years, after which two shall be elected annually.

Sec. III.—(Method of Election.) All officers shall be elected by ballot and a majority vote shall elect.



**Article V.—Duties of Officers.**

Sec. I.—(President.) The duties of the President shall be those usually devolving on that office.

Sec. II.—(Vice-President.) In the absence of the President the duties of that office shall devolve on the Vice-President.

Sec. III.—(Secretary.) It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep an accurate record of all proceedings of meetings of the Association, to conduct all official correspondence, and to do such other work as his office may require.

Sec. IV.—(Treasurer.) The duties of the Treasurer shall be to collect all moneys and disburse the same only upon order signed by the President and Secretary. He shall keep a regular account of all the business he transacts and shall submit a report at each Annual Meeting of the Association, at which time his accounts shall be audited.

Sec. V.—(Custodian.) It shall be the duty of the Custodian to receive, classify, arrange and hold in safe keeping and in trust for the Association, all books, papers, documents, manuscripts, letters, etc. He shall submit at each Annual Meeting of the Association a report of all acquisitions, whether by purchase or donations, with name of donor and conditions, if any, accompanying the acquisition.

Sec. VI.—(Executive Committee.) It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to examine and to pass upon the eligibility of candidates for membership, to arrange for the regular meetings of the Association and to prepare programs for same; also to make, from time to time, such rules and regulations as may be necessary, and to transact all business not otherwise provided for in this constitution.

**Article VI.—Meetings.**

The Association shall hold one regular yearly meeting at the time and place of the Annual Conference of the church.

**Article VII.—Headquarters.**

The headquarters of the Association shall be with the mother church at Germantown.

**Article VIII.—Amendments.**

To amend the constitution, three-fourths of the votes cast shall be requisite, proxy votes being allowed. Such voting can take place only at the Annual Meeting of the Association, and after one year's notice of such proposed amendment.



### By-Laws.

#### I. Order of Business.

1. Calling to order.
2. Devotional exercises.
3. Reading and adoption of Minutes of previous meeting.
4. Reports of officers and committee.
5. Unfinished business.
6. New business.
7. Election of members.
8. Election of officers.
9. Appointment of committees.
10. Historical papers and addresses.
11. Adjournment.

#### II. The annual meeting shall be open to the public.

III. Failure on the part of any member to pay his annual dues for two years shall be regarded as sufficient cause for dropping his name from the list of membership.

IV. Special meetings can be called at the discretion of the President and Executive Committee.

V. The by-laws can be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

Organization.—President, Abraham H. Cassel, Harleysville, Pa.; Vice-President, Eld. S. F. Sanger, Manassas, Va.; Secretary, F. F. Holsopple, Parkersford, Pa.; Treasurer, W. S. Price, Royersford, Pa.; Custodian, G. N. Falkenstein, Germantown, Pa.

Executive Committee.—One Year: Jesse Zigler, Royersford, Pa.; John Herr, Myerstown, Pa.

Two Years: J. G. Frances, Oaks, Pa.; T. T. Myers, Philadelphia, Pa.

Three Years: S. R. Zug, Mastersonville, Pa.; J. T. Myers, Oaks, Pa.

Answer: Deferred one year.

10. We ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to authorize the General Missionary and Tract Committee to prepare and each year to distribute, with the Minutes of Annual Meeting, or otherwise, printed forms, containing when properly filled out: I. Suitable recommendations for delegates. II. Items of information needed at the General Office, such as (1) the names and correct addresses of the ministers in each local church; (2) the name and address of the elder in charge; (3) the number of members; (4) the number of meetinghouses and probable value of church property (as required by the government); (5) informa-



tion relating to Sunday schools (6) missionary work, and (7) any other items of information needed at the General Office. Such blanks to be filled out both for District and Annual Meeting, in each local church, signed by its clerk, to be delivered to the Committee on Credentials, one copy to be filed with the Secretary of District Mission Board, and one with Secretary of General Mission Board.

Answer: Request granted.

11. Inasmuch as our Hymnals do not contain sufficient Sunday school and missionary songs, and as the introduction of additional books to supply this deficiency has a tendency to divide the song service; therefore, we, the members of the Oakland congregation, ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to so revise our Hymnals that this deficiency may be supplied within the compass of one book.

Petition from Solomon's Creek church. As there is quite a diversity of song and hymn books in use among us, thereby preventing harmony in our song service, and inasmuch as the Brethren's Hymnal and the Sunday School Song Book do not meet the wants of the church, will not District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to supply this want and direct that all the churches use the same book in all our services?

These queries were submitted to a committee and answered as follows:

(1) Inasmuch as there is now forthcoming, by authority of Annual Meeting of 1896 (see Art. 18), a No. 2 Sunday School Song Book, which will likely be published soon, and thus supply the demand along that line for the present.

(2) In view of the importance of this question submitted, and the limited time for its consideration, we ask for time until next Annual Meeting to carefully consider this question. But we suggest (1) that in the meantime the churches use the Hymnal and Sunday School Song Book, as recommended by Annual Meeting. (2) That the Brethren Publishing House collect suitable hymns and music, as opportunity affords, as a stock to draw from when needed.

Committee: L. W. Teeter, L. H. Dickey, H. E. Light.

12. We, the Ogan's Creek church, ask District Meeting of Middle District of Indiana, to ask Annual Meeting to make a rule permitting no brother to serve on the General Missionary Committee more than two terms of three years each, in succession.

Answer: We suggest that changes be made as wisdom and prudence may dictate.



13. (Clear Creek church, Huntington Co., Ind.) We petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, that no elder or minister shall serve as delegate to District Meeting or Annual Meeting or member of Mission Board, who receives remuneration from railroad corporations or land speculators, for assistance in locating families in new countries and territories, thus weakening the influence of those called of God to feed and lead the flock.

Answer: Annual Meeting refused to grant the request.

14. Inasmuch as members often fail to present their letters of recommendation within the prescribed limit (six months) and are practically lost to both churches, will not this District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to grant us a detachable slip to our certificate of membership which shall be returned to church clerk granting said certificate of membership without reasonable delay?

#### Form of Slip.

This certifies that .....presented.....  
certificate of membership and is under the watch-care of.....  
.....church.

Clerk .....P. O. ....State .....

Answer: The Publishing House is instructed to append the slip to the Certificates of Membership.

15. Bethel church asks Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to change the answer to Art. 12, 1863, Classified Minutes, page 222, so as to allow the churches to retain members who are guilty of fornication, when they manifest fruits of deep repentance.

Answer: Deferred one year.

16. We ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to advise each State District to appoint a Sunday school secretary, whose duty it shall be to inspire the Sunday school work of the District, and also to supply the Sunday School Advisory Committee with such statistics and other information as that Committee may ask.

Answer: Request granted.

17. Inasmuch as the New Testament Scriptures, as understood by the Brethren, are better established by a study of the types and shadows of the Old Testament, in connection with their fulfillment in the New, and as the International Sunday School Lessons do not sufficiently present the analogy of the Old and New Testaments in connection with their fulfillment in the New, nor bear on any doctrinal subject long enough to establish it in



the minds of the Sunday school scholars, we petition Annual Meeting to appoint a committee to arrange a series of Sunday school lessons especially adapted to teaching the entire Gospel as understood by the Brethren.

Answer: Referred to the Executive Committee of the Publishing House.

18. (Warrensburg church.) We petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to give a proper course of procedure for disorganizing a church that can no longer be maintained.

Answer: Let the request be made to District Meeting for disorganization. District Meeting shall then appoint a committee of elders to visit said church and grant letters of membership to all members, assigning them to adjoining congregations.

19. We, the Abilene church, petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to say whether it is wrong, or in violation of Gospel principles, or contrary to Brethren's order, to invite members of other denominations to speak in our social meetings.

Answer: Not wrong when it is done without compromising Gospel principles.

20. We, the McPherson church, Kansas, ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to appoint a committee of five, to recommend to next Annual Meeting a plan for a more judicious distribution of the ministerial force of the church.

Answer: Request granted and committee appointed: L. W. Teeter, S. Z. Sharp, J. G. Royer, Daniel Vaniman, I. D. Parker.

21. Inasmuch as there is a class of young people in our homes too far advanced to be interested in the Young Disciple, and yet for whom the Gospel Messenger is not wholly adapted, many of whom are now reading papers not in sympathy with the time-honored principles of the Brethren, the General Missionary and Tract Committee recommend to Standing Committee and Annual Meeting that they authorize the publishing of such a periodical suitable in size, and so arranged in departments and illustrated as will subserve this growing demand most satisfactorily; that such publication be under the direction of the General Missionary and Tract Committee and published by the Brethren Publishing House.

Answer: The request is granted.

**Annual Report of the General Missionary and Tract Committee  
for the Year Ending March 31, 1898.**

To the Annual Meeting Assembled at Burlington Park, Illinois,  
May 31-June 2, 1898.



It is with gratitude to God for the great favor he has shown the work of the church in her several mission fields that the committee submits this brief annual report of its work for the past year to the Brotherhood. In every land where our missionaries are at work has the cause moved onward at an encouraging rate, and the increase in accessions, as well as in the assets of the funds, should encourage every member of the church. It is to be regretted that the report must be confined to bare statements in the briefest form, but such is its allotted compass at this time. It is hoped that every reader of its pages will find much to encourage him to still greater efforts in the one great mission of the church, proclaiming salvation to a lost and dying world.

#### Foreign Fields.

Within the yast year Elders S. N. McCann, D. L. Forney and his wife, Sister Anna Forney and Sister Elizabeth Gibbel were sent to the India field and are now well under headway in their new work. The Orphanage with its inmates are a source of much hope for the cause in India. In Asia Minor a congregation has been organized at Aidin and a mission opened in Philadelphia. During the year, 4 in Denmark, 9 in Sweden, 16 in Asia Minor and 24 in India have been received by baptism. The year closes with a membership as follows: Sweden, 122; Denmark, 89; Asia Minor, 39; India, 31.

#### Home Fields.

In the United States missions have been maintained in Washington, D. C., Germantown, Pa., Chicago, Ill., Arkansas, Southern Missouri, Florida and Alabama. The total accessions for these several fields are 44.

Outside of the missions above named tract distribution has been carried on by the District Boards in a number of cities with good results. The demand for tracts was greater than the funds on hand could supply.

The Children's Missions in Chicago and Brooklyn, N. Y., have had an increased attendance and encouraging results. The donations of food and clothing have been greatly appreciated and put to good use.

The Dispensary in Chicago has opened a new and ready avenue to reach the souls of men and women by healing their bodies.



### FINANCIAL. World-Wide Missions.

**Receipts:**

Balance on hand at beginning of the year, .....		\$ 1,379 16
Donations, Interest, General Income, .....	\$9,153 18	
Income Covina farm, California, .....	1,900 00	
Income Brethren Publishing House (\$240 in India fund), .....	5,760 00	
Meeting House Bills Receivable, .....	456 45	
Mission to Colored People in United States, .....	3 00	
Mission to Africa, .....	8 50	
Mission to China's Millions, .....	31 42	17,312 55
		<hr/>
		\$18,691 71

**Expenditures:**

Danish Mission, .....	\$ 770 87	
Swedish Missions, .....	847 71	
Assistance to State Districts, .....	3,900 00	
Donations for Meeting Houses, .....	1,175 00	
Loans for Meeting Houses, .....	650 00	
Annuities, .....	1,501 76	
Arkansas Mission, .....	832 83	
Louisiana Mission, .....	202 05	
Florida Mission, .....	346 35	
Brooklyn Mission, .....	565 69	
Germantown Mission, .....	387 63	
Washington, D. C., Mission, .....	959 60	
Chicago Mission, .....	728 15	
Chicago Dispensary, .....	301 91	
Scandinavian Mission in the United States, ..	320 08	
Committees sent by Annual Meeting, .....	252 71	
Secretary's Salary, .....	150 00	
Expense, .....	177 69	
Traveling Secretaries, .....	891 62	
Tract Distribution, .....	438 66	
Transferred to M. H. Bills Receivable, .....	1 39	
Organization Church at Atlanta, Ga., ....	7 50	
Hoover Property, Ohio, .....	88 00	
Committee's Traveling Expenses, .....	313 36	\$15,810 56
		<hr/>
Balance on hand, .....		\$ 2,881 15

### Book and Tract Fund.

**Receipts:**

On hand at the beginning of the year, .....		\$ 847 18
Donations, Interest, General Income, .....	\$2,361 63	
From World-Wide Fund, .....	438 66	2,800 29
		<hr/>
		\$3,647 47

**Expenditures:**

Publishing and Distributing Tracts, .....	\$611 85
Rebate on Tract Interest, .....	951 00



Missionary Gospel Messenger, .....	\$420 77
Doctrinal Gospel Messengers, .....	247 50
Danish and Swedish Song Books, .....	108 43
Tract Work, N. Iowa, at Waterloo, .....	150 00
Tract Work, M. Iowa, at Des Moines, .....	70 00
Tract Work, E. Md., at Baltimore, .....	144 00
Tract Work, N. Ind., at Ft. Wayne, .....	75 00
Tract Work, 1st Va., at Staunton, .....	75 00
Tract Distributors, .....	700 28
Tract Examining Committee, .....	80 25
Special Distribution and Expense, .....	13 39

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Number of pages of Tracts distributed, 2,037,357, \$3,647 47

### Washington Meetinghouse Fund.

#### Receipts:

Donations during the year, \$1,826 11

#### Expenditures:

Overpaid balance of last year, .....	\$1,265 14	
Tax on Property, .....	39 14	
Solicitor's Expense, .....	55 16	1,359 44

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Balance on hand, \$ 466 67

### India Missions.

#### Receipts:

Balance on hand at the beginning of the year, .....	\$ 952 83
Donations, .....	\$1,343 21
Income Brethren Publishing House, .....	240 00
From Bills Receivable, .....	1,275 00
	<hr/> 2,858 21
	<hr/> \$3,811 04

#### Expenditures:

Expense of four missionaries to India and support on the field, .....	\$1,946 73	
Passed to Bills Receivable, .....	1,000 00	\$2,946 73
	<hr/>	
Balance on hand, .....		\$ 864 31

### India Sufferers and Orphanage Fund.

#### Receipts:

Balance on hand at the beginning of the year, .....	\$ 67 95
Donations for sufferers fund, .....	\$4,292 17
Donations for Orphanage, .....	1,330 07
	<hr/> 5,622 24
	<hr/> \$5,690 19

#### Expenditures:

To Sufferers in India, .....	\$1,692 95	
To Orphanage in India, .....	200 00	\$1,892 95
	<hr/>	
Balance on hand for Orphanage, .....		\$3,797 24



## Asia Minor Mission.

## Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of the year, ..\$ 338 46  
 Donations, ..... 556 24

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\$ 894 70

## Expenditures:

Expenses of the Mission, ..... \$ 894 70

## Asia Minor Orphanage.

## Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of the year, ..\$1,789 74  
 Donations, ..... 2,178 87

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\$3,968 61

## Expenditures:

Caring for Orphans, Instructing them, and In-  
 cidental Expenses, ..... \$1,850 84

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\$2,117 77

## Interest Bearing Funds.

Denmark Poor Fund, .....\$ 2,034 46  
 World-Wide Endowment, ..... 39,010 86  
 Tract Endowment, ..... 19,640 06  
 Donation for Brethren Publishing House, .... 55,078 66  
 India Mission Fund, ..... 5,000 00  
 India Endowment, ..... 1,050 00  
 Gospel Messenger Subscription Endowment, .. 50 00  
 Gish Estate (invoiced), ..... 31,426 03

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\$153,290 07

The above funds were in the following shape on April 1, 1898:

Bills Receivable, .....\$74,147 45  
 Real Estate, ..... 18,418 60  
 Brethren Publishing House, ..... 50,240 00  
 Accrued Interest Assumed, ..... 435 67  
 Cash, ..... 10,048 35

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\$153,290 07

## Assets.

Cash on hand of the several Mission Funds, \$ 10,127 14  
 Interest Bearing Funds, ..... 153,290 07  
 Value of Real Estate above Investment, .... 30,000 00  
 Estimated Value of Gish Estate not included  
 in "Interest Bearing Funds," ..... 28,500 00  
 Pledged Endowments, Interest and Non-in-  
 terest Bearing, ..... 86,416 75

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\$308,333 96



Assets, March 31, 1897, .....\$224,017 16

Increase, .....\$ 84,316 80

### Statement of Cash on Hand April 1, 1898.

World-Wide Fund, .....	\$ 2,881 15
Washington Meeting House, .....	466 67
India Mission, .....	864 31
India Orphanage, .....	3,797 24
Asia Minor Orphanage, .....	2,117 77
Interest Bearing Funds, .....	10,048 35

Total, .....\$20,175 49

Since the above date the larger part of this balance has been appropriated to the various fields for which it was intended

### Donations to Building Meetinghouses.

Oak Grove Church, Oklahoma, .....	\$100 00
Sampson Hill Church, Indiana, .....	200 00
Irvin Creek Church, Wisconsin, .....	100 00
Goshen Church, West Virginia, .....	100 00
White Church, Kansas, .....	100 00
Circleville Church, Ohio, .....	100 00
Windfall Church, Indiana, .....	100 00
Ft. Scott Church, Kansas, .....	150 00
Muncie Church, Indiana, .....	150 00
Black River Church, Michigan, .....	75 00

\$1,175 00

### Meeting House Loans.

Big Creek Church, Oklahoma, .....	\$200 00
Irvin Creek Church, Wisconsin, .....	100 00
Ft. Scott Church, Kansas, .....	200 00
Windfall Church, Indiana, .....	100 00

\$ 600 00

### Assistance to State Districts.

Texas, .....	\$400 00
Northern Missouri, .....	150 00
California, .....	200 00
Northern Illinois, .....	200 00
Southern Illinois, .....	200 00
Northwest Kansas, .....	300 00
Southwest Kansas, .....	200 00
Northeast Kansas, .....	300 00
Southeast Kansas, .....	150 00
Middle Iowa, .....	600 00
Nebraska, .....	150 00
Oregon, Washington and Idaho, .....	350 00
Eastern Pennsylvania, .....	150 00
Tennessee, .....	100 00



Southern Indiana, .....	\$100 00
Middle Pennsylvania, .....	150 00
Oklahoma, .....	200 00

\$3,900 00

Summary.

Assistance to Meeting Houses, Donations, .....	10
Assistance to Meeting Houses, Loans, .....	4
Assistance to State Districts, .....	17
Received into Membership in all Fields, .....	97

The Washington Meeting House fund shows only the cash received. The lot is paid for in full and the balance on hand, with a goodly number of pledges to pay when the building is ready to go up, are all toward the proposed new house, which should soon be erected.

Among the items of expense in the world-wide fund is an outlay for Traveling Secretaries. The wisdom of this expenditure, as well as the success of the Secretaries, is seen in the increase of \$84,-316.80 in the Assets, most of which has come through their labors.

Another item shows that \$3,900 has been given to State Districts for their own district mission work. By turning to the list of Districts helped, it is seen that the money has been distributed from Pennsylvania to California. For the past ten years the average assistance to State Districts has been 8 2-5, Districts receiving \$1,345.83. This year 17 Districts, or twice the average number, receive \$3,900, or a little over three times the average amount. This has been possible for the Committee to do, only because of the funds coming from the Brethren Publishing House.

BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE.  
Financial Statement.

Resources:

Cash on hand, .....	\$ 3,873 44
Machinery, .....	3,818 24
Type, Cases, etc., .....	8,696 68
Office Fixtures, .....	356 58
Reserve Fund (held in Mortgages), .....	10,000 00
Bills Receivable, .....	4,265 04
Accounts Receivable, .....	3,871 77
Old Ledger Accounts, .....	3,156 92
Merchandise, .....	2,156 92
Printing Paper, and other Material, .....	1,167 12
Special Accounts, .....	45 80

\$41,408 19



## Liabilities:

Net Capital at beginning, .....	\$22,114 32
Unexpired Messenger, Young Disciple, and Children at Work Subscriptions, .....	14,168 25
Gospel Messenger Poor Fund, .....	2 91
Gish Testament Fund, .....	1,102 09
Earnings for the Year, .....	\$10,020 62
Paid to Mission Board, .....	6,000 00

Earnings not taken out of the Business, .. 4,020 62

\$41,408 19

The above is a summarized statement of the Resources and Liabilities of the business on April 1, 1898, as taken from the balance sheet of the books of the House, and has been carefully compared and found true and correct by the Auditing Committee appointed by last Annual Meeting. The statement does not include the delinquent subscription account found in the report of last year and which is still over \$15,000.

The total amount of business done during the year is \$108,490.55.

The Reserve Fund is a part of the amount realized from the Old Ledger accounts and Cash turned over with the business. It is placed in reserve to meet possible contingencies and to avoid reducing the working capital of the House.

Between two-fifths and one-half of the earnings of the business come from the sale of Books, Sunday-School Supplies, Advertisements, and the Job Department.

When the Missionary and Tract Committee came into possession of the Publishing business it at once reduced the salaries in total for the four head workmen, \$440 per year. The salaries and wages for the ensuing year are as follows:

D. L. Miller, Editor, .....	Services free.
H. B. Brumbaugh, Editor per year, .....	\$500 00
J. H. Moore, Office Editor, per year, .....	840 00
Joseph Amick, Business Manager, per year, .....	700 00
Galen B. Royer, Bookkeeper, receives \$840 per year, of which \$150 is paid direct by Missionary Committee for serv- ices as Secretary, and balance by the House, .....	690 00

The business of the House has been under the immediate direction of an executive committee, composed of the editors and the business manager, persons experienced in the printing business and well acquainted with the desires and needs of the brotherhood, and the earnings show not only that the brotherhood received a very valuable donation one year ago but also that the business has been conducted in a very satisfactory manner. It is a pleasure to announce that the Messenger starts upon the new year with 3,000



more subscriptions than it had one year ago. The Sunday-School Supplies are in greater demand than heretofore, and the outlook is promising for a still better business for the church.

In conclusion, let it be said that it has been only a few years since the mission work of the church was begun on an organized basis; yet in that short time the committee has assisted in building about seventy-five meeting houses, helped nearly every state district in preaching the gospel in its own territory, opened foreign fields with wonderful rapidity and growth, and in this and other lands souls rejoice in the God of their salvation, because consecrated workers and means have been willingly laid on the altar of sacrifice. With all this, some one is ready to say, "So little is done." This is true when only the world field is taken into comparison. Yet, when a review of the past growth is considered, when the power of the press and awakened missionary sentiment is contemplated, who is able to foretell the ends that shall, by God's continued favor, be reached in the next few years. And may these thoughts simply warm our hearts to a deeper love for the Master and his cause and constrain us to redouble our efforts in a world-wide evangelization until all the nations of the earth shall have heard the glad tidings of salvation.

Committee: Enoch Eby, of Kansas, Chairman; D. L. Miller, of Illinois, Treasurer; S. F. Sanger, of Virginia; S. R. Zug, of Pennsylvania; L. W. Teeter, of Indiana.

Mount Morris, Illinois, May 30, 1898.

We, the undersigned committee, appointed by Annual Meeting to audit the books of the General Missionary and Tract Committee and of the Brethren Publishing House, have examined the same and found them correct. We find all notes and mortgages made payable to the Committee. All moneys are credited to the accounts for which they were received.

Committee: John C. Mellinger, Lewis R. Peifer, Aaron L. Clair.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

#### Report of Committee to Eastern Pennsylvania.

The Committee to Eastern Pennsylvania made its annual report, showing some progress in its work. The report was accepted and the committee continued with an addition of two elders, W. R. Deeter and W. A. Gaunt. The Committee was instructed to make an effort to divide the State District, to lay before the churches fully the order of the church and to confer with the General Missionary and Tract Committee with reference to locating two or three faithful elders in Eastern Pennsylvania.



**Report of Committee to Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia.**

The committee to Western Pennsylvania reported progress which is encouraging in character. The committee was continued and encouraged to carry forward the work in hand as rapidly as wisdom dictates.

**Incorporation of Trustees in Pennsylvania.**

The Standing Committee of Annual Meeting of 1898 advise the Trustees of the General Conference of the German Baptist Brethren Church, namely, L. W. Teeter, Hagerstown, Indiana; S. R. Zug, Mastersonville, Pennsylvania; H. C. Early, Meyerhoeffer's Store, Virginia; Henry Frantz, New Carlisle, Ohio; and H. C. Baker, Rock Falls, Wisconsin, now incorporated under the Statutes of the State of Wisconsin (sections 1998, and 1999, Revised Statutes), to also incorporate under the Statutes of the State of Pennsylvania for the purpose of holding in trust the Germantown Church Property, or any other such property desired to be held by them in said State.

Adopted.

**Letters of Greeting**

Were received from Denmark, Asia Minor, and Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and answered as follows:

The General Conference at Naperville, Ill., sends greeting to all our dear brethren and sisters of the District of Denmark, Asia Minor, Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Your greetings of love have been accepted with gladness and we are thankful to our Heavenly Father that you enjoy that degree of love, grace and Christian fellowship, that is so much desired, and our prayers go up in your behalf that the Lord's work may continually prosper among you, and that you may be instruments in accomplishing much good in his name, in earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints.

**Committees Appointed.**

Committee on Credentials: J. S. Mohler, A. B. Barnhart, Jacob Witmore.

Committee on Resolutions: I. D. Parker, D. S. Filbrun, I. N. H. Beahm.

Sunday School Committee: A. C. Wieand.

Tract Examining Committee: Daniel Hays.



Treasurer of Annual Meeting: Joseph Amick.

Missionary and Tract Committee: S. F. Sanger, A. B. Barnhart.

Auditing Committee: L. R. Peifer, three years; J. C. Mellinger, two years; A. L. Clair, one year.

School Visiting Committees: Huntingdon, Pa., James A. Sell; Bridgewater, Va., Hiram G. Miller; Mount Morris, Ill., David Eby; McPherson, Kans., Michael Keller; Lordsburg, Cal., W. J. Thomas, Andrew Hutchison; North Manchester, Ind., Amsey Puterbaugh.

Advisory Committee for Gospel Messenger: Daniel Hays re-elected.

The request to recognize and appoint a Visiting Committee for the Fruitdale School, Ala., was deferred one year.

To visit the churches in Scandinavia and Asia Minor: D. L. Miller and wife.

#### Committees to Churches.

Upper Stillwater church, Ohio: W. R. Deeter, C. L. Wilkins, L. T. Holsinger, I. D. Parker, Jacob Rairigh.

Covington church, Ohio: W. R. Deeter, L. W. Teeter, L. T. Holsinger, I. D. Parker, Jacob Rairigh.

Pyrmont church, Ind.: D. F. Hoover, L. W. Teeter, S. S. Ullery.

The Committee appointed in 1897 to visit the Cerrogoro church, Ill., was continued.

#### Calls for Annual Meeting, 1899.

(1) First District of Virginia. (2) Second District of Virginia. (3) Eastern Pennsylvania. (4) Northwestern Ohio. (5) Middle District of Indiana. (6) California and Arizona.

The next Annual Meeting will be held in the First District of Virginia.

#### Resolutions.

Whereas: Under the guidance and blessings of our Heavenly Father, we have enjoyed another Annual Meeting, which, in sociability and character of work done, has been one of the most pleasant and profitable in the history of the church, be it therefore

Resolved, That we unite in giving thanks:

1. To Him from whom these and all other blessings come; for His abundant mercy, grace and peace that have rested upon us during the meeting.



2. To the Committee of Arrangements and their assistants for their ardent and faithful efforts, put forth under many perplexing difficulties, to give to all in attendance every needed comfort.

3. To the local churches of our Brotherhood and all individuals for their liberal donations to the General Missionary Fund.

4. To the citizens of Naperville for their cordial reception and hospitality extended to our people.

5. To the corporation of Naperville for the efficient electric light service furnished us.

6. To the churches of Naperville that opened their houses of worship,—much to the convenience and spiritual comfort of many.

7. To the C., B. & Q. Railway system for the use of their park, and other special favors. Also to such other roads as favored us, and particularly to Mr. P. S. Eustis, General Passenger Agent of the Burlington Road, for his efficient and untiring efforts that secured for us favors desired.

#### Standing Committee.

1. Tennessee, North Carolina, and Florida, .....John Brubaker
2. First District of Virginia, ....W. H. Naff, Samuel Crumpacker
3. Second District of Virginia, .....L. A. Wenger
4. First District of West Virginia, .....Jeremiah Thomas
5. Second District of West Virginia, .....G. W. Annon
6. Eastern Maryland, .....George K. Sappington
7. Western Maryland, .....Eli Yourtee
8. Eastern Pennsylvania, .....J. H. Longanecker
9. Southern Pennsylvania, .....E. D. Book
10. Middle Pennsylvania, .....S. J. Swigart
11. Western Pennsylvania, .....W. A. Gaunt
12. Southern Ohio, .....J. Calvin Bright
13. Northeastern Ohio, .....Henry Keller
14. Northwestern Ohio, .....C. L. Wilkins
15. Southern Indiana, .....J. W. Rarick
16. Middle Indiana, .....J. H. Wright
17. Northern Indiana, .....W. R. Deeter
18. Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, .....P. R. Keltner
19. Southern Illinois, .....Solomon Bucklew, Michael Flory
20. Southern Missouri and Arkansas, .....F. W. Dove
21. Middle Missouri, .....M. T. Baer
22. Northern Missouri, .....J. E. Ellenberger



23. Southern Iowa, ..... John P. Bailey
  24. Middle Iowa, ..... Geo. A. Shamberger
  25. Northern Iowa, S. Minnesota and S. Dakota, ..... S. H. Miller
  26. North Dakota and Northern Minnesota, ..... J. C. Seibert
  27. Michigan, ..... Daniel Chambers
  28. Nebraska, ..... S. M. Forney
  29. Northeastern Kansas, ..... Wm. Davis
  30. Southeastern Kansas, ..... Caleb Fogle
  31. Northwestern Kansas and Colorado, ..... S. L. Myers
  32. Southwestern Kansas and S. Colorado, ..... Michael Keller
  33. Texas, ..... A. Molsbee
  34. Oklahoma and Indian Territory, ..... Samuel Edgecomb
  35. California and Arizona, ..... Andrew Hutchison
  36. Oregon, Washington and Idaho, ..... By letter
  37. Denmark, ..... By letter
  38. Sweden, ..... D. L. Miller
  39. First District of Asia Minor, ..... By letter
- W. R. Deeter, Moderator; P. R. Keltner, Reading Clerk; D. L. Miller, Writing Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1899.

Roanoke, Va.

The Conference was organized by electing Eld. L. T. Hol-singer, of North Manchester, Ind., Moderator; Eld. I. B. Trout, of Lanark, Ill., Reading Clerk; Eld. J. H. Moore, of Mt. Morris, Ill., Writing Clerk.

The General Council was opened at 8: 30 A. M., May 23, 1899.

### Unfinished Business.

1. Whereas there has been organized, with headquarters at Germantown, a German Baptist Brethren Historical Association, whose object is to collect, preserve and diffuse the history of our church; and whereas this seems to us to be a work that will be of great practical value to the church, therefore the Green Tree church, in conference met, requests the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to forward to the next General Conference of the church, this paper, along with a copy of the Constitution of said Historical Association, requesting said Conference to consider the practicability of incorporating said Historical Association into our church body.



### Constitution.

#### Article I.—The Name.

The name of this organization shall be the German Baptist Brethren Historical Association.

#### Article II.—Object.

The object of this Association shall be

1. To perpetuate the memory and virtues of the fathers and representative men of the church, and to foster the principles and doctrines of the Bible, as believed and practiced by the church.

2. To collect and preserve, in a suitable place, all manuscripts, documents, books, etc., having reference to the history of the church.

3. To publish and diffuse, in harmony with publishing regulations of the church, such part of the materials gathered, as may be deemed of sufficient importance and general interest.

4. To encourage each local congregation to note important events and to keep and preserve Minutes of church councils and of Meetings of Boards of Trustees, to keep a complete list of the membership, including baptisms, marriages, deaths, expulsions, reclamations and the giving and receiving of church letters.

#### Article III.—Membership.

Sec. I.—(Classes and Eligibility.) The members shall consist of three classes, regular, associate and honorary. All persons in full fellowship with the church are eligible to regular membership. All persons in full fellowship with church organizations which have separated from our own, are eligible to associate membership. All persons of good character, of acknowledged ability in historical research, who are in sympathy with the objects of this Association are eligible to honorary membership.

Sec. II.—(Election of Members.) Names of applicants or of persons proposed for membership shall be presented in writing to a member of the Executive Committee, whose duty it shall be to inquire into the eligibility of such persons and, if found eligible, submit such names to the next regular meeting of the Association. A two-thirds vote of members present shall be necessary to election.

Sec. III.—(Requirements of Members.) On election regular and associate members shall pay a fee of two dollars and sign the constitution. The bequeathal of valuable documents to the Association, or the writing of an approved historical essay will be accepted in lieu of such fee. The annual dues for such members shall



be one dollar. The payments of twenty-five dollars shall constitute any such member a life member. Honorary members shall be exempt from all these obligations.

Sec. IV.—(Privileges of Members.) Equal rights and privileges shall be granted to all members, except voting and holding office, which shall be limited to regular members.

#### Article IV.—Officers.

Sec. I.—The officers of this Association shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Custodian and Executive Committee.

Sec. II.—(Election of Officers.)

1. President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Custodian shall be elected at each yearly meeting of the Association.

2. The editors of the Gospel Messenger and the presidents of our several colleges shall be honorary Vice-Presidents.

3. The Executive Committee shall consist of six members, exclusive of the Secretary, who shall be a member ex-officio. At the first election there shall be two elected for one year, two for two years, and two for three years, after which two shall be elected annually.

Sec. III.—(Method of Election.) All officers shall be elected by ballot and a majority shall elect.

#### Article V.—Duties of Officers.

Sec. I.—(President.) The duties of the President shall be those usually devolving on that office.

Sec. II.—(Vice President.) In the absence of the President the duties of that office shall devolve on the Vice-President.

Sec. III.—(Secretary.) It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep an accurate record of all proceedings of meetings of the Association, to conduct all official correspondence, and to do such work as his office may require.

Sec. IV.—(Treasurer.) The duties of the Treasurer shall be to collect all moneys and disburse the same only upon order signed by the President and Secretary. He shall keep a regular account of all the business he transacts and shall submit a report at each Annual Meeting of the Association, at which time his accounts shall be audited.

Sec. V.—(Custodian.) It shall be the duty of the Custodian to receive, classify, arrange and hold in safe keeping and in trust for the Association, all books, papers, documents, manuscripts, letters, etc. He shall submit at each Annual Meeting of the Association a report of all acquisitions, whether by purchase or donations, with



name of donor and conditions, if any, accompanying the acquisition.

Sec. VI.—(Executive Committee.) It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to examine and to pass upon the eligibility of candidates for membership, to arrange for the regular meetings of the Association and to prepare programs for same; also to make, from time to time, such rules and regulations as may be necessary, and to transact all business not otherwise provided for in this constitution.

#### Article VI.—Meetings.

The Association shall hold one regular yearly meeting at the time and place of the Annual Conference of the church.

#### Article VII.—Headquarters.

The headquarters of the Association shall be with the mother church at Germantown.

#### Article VIII.—Amendments.

To amend the constitution, three-fourths of the vote cast shall be requisite, proxy votes being allowed. Such voting can take place only at the Annual Meeting of the Association, and after one year's notice of such proposed amendments.

#### By-Laws.

- I. Order of Business.
  1. Calling to order.
  2. Devotional exercises.
  3. Reading and adoption of Minutes of previous meeting.
  4. Report of officers and committee.
  5. Unfinished business.
  6. New business.
  7. Election of members.
  8. Election of officers.
  9. Appointment of committees.
  10. Historical papers and addresses.
  11. Adjournment.
- II. The annual meeting shall be open to the public.
- III. Failure on the part of any member to pay his annual dues for two years shall be regarded as sufficient cause for dropping his name from the list of membership.
- IV. Special meetings can be called at the discretion of the President and Executive Committee.
- V. The by-laws can be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting.

Organization.—President, Abraham H. Cassel, Harleysville, Pa.;



Vice-President, Eld. S. F. Sanger, Manassas, Va.; Secretary, F. F. Holsopple, Parkerford, Pa.; Treasurer, W. S. Price, Royersford, Pa.; Custodian, G. N. Falkenstein, Germantown, Pa.

Executive Committee.—One year, Jesse Zigler, Royersford, Pa., John Herr, Myerstown, Pa.; two years, J. G. Francis, Oaks, Pa., T. T. Myers, Philadelphia, Pa.; three years, S. R. Zug, Mastersonville, Pa., J. T. Myers, Oaks, Pa.

[Answer: Deferred one year.]

Answer: Decided to appoint a committee of five brethren to take this matter under consideration and report at the next Annual Meeting. Committee: D. L. Miller, Daniel Vaniman, M. J. McClure, Jas. A. Sell, J. T. Meyers.

2. (a) Inasmuch as our Hymnals do not contain sufficient Sunday school and missionary songs, and as the introduction of additional books to supply this deficiency has a tendency to divide the song service; therefore we, the members of the Oakland congregation, ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to so revise our Hymnals that this deficiency may be supplied within the compass of one book.

(b) Petition from Solomon's Creek church: As there is quite a diversity of song and hymn books in use among us, thereby preventing harmony in our song service, and inasmuch as the "Brethren's Hymnal" and the "Sunday School Song Book" do not meet the wants of the church, will not District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to supply this want and direct that all the churches use the same book in all of our services?

These queries were submitted to a committee, and answered as follows:

1. Inasmuch as there is now forthcoming, by authority of Annual Meeting of 1896 (see Art. 18), a No. 2 Sunday School Song Book, which will likely be published soon, and thus supply the demand along that line for the present.

2. In view of the importance of this question submitted, and the limited time for its consideration, we ask for time until next Annual Meeting to carefully consider this question. But we suggest (1) that in the meantime the churches use the Hymnal and Sunday School Song Book, as recommended by Annual Meeting. (2) That the Brethren Publishing House collect suitable hymns and music, as opportunity affords, as a stock to draw from when needed.

Committee: L. W. Teeter, L. H. Dickey, H. E. Light.  
Report of the committee:



After carefully considering this question we recommend the following:

1. That the publication of the Hymn Book and Hymnal be continued in about the form and size they now are.

2. That a committee of three be appointed to revise both the Hymn Book and Hymnal according to the following outline:

(1) Revise the Hymn Book, expunging a sufficient number of the hymns least in general use to admit a Sunday-school department, of sufficient compass that, by the use of some hymns from other departments, the book may be used for Sunday-school song service.

(2) Give special attention to the doctrine of all the hymns, and arrange them topically, and fully indexed.

3. Revise the Hymnal (1) to contain the same hymns as those in the Hymn Book, and topically arranged and indexed. (2) To contain few, if any duplicates, thus giving us a greater variety of tunes without increasing the size of the book.

4. We recommend that the publication of the Hymn Book and Hymnal be turned over to the Brethren Publishing House, and that they should put them in substantial binding, and sell them as near cost as possible.

Committee: L. W. Teeter, L. H. Dickey, H. E. Light.

Answer: Decided to spread the report on the Minutes and defer one year.

3. We, the McPherson church, Kansas, ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to appoint a committee of five to recommend to next Annual Meeting a plan for a more judicious distribution of the ministerial force of the church.

Answer: Request granted and committee appointed: L. W. Teeter, S. Z. Sharp, J. G. Royer, Daniel Vaniman, I. D. Parker.

Report of the committee:

1. We recommend that a bureau of information be created with headquarters at the office of the General Missionary and Tract Committee, said bureau to consist of the General Missionary and Tract Committee, the Secretary of the Missionary Committee of each State District, and the Secretary of each local church in the Brotherhood.

2. We recommend that the General Missionary and Tract Committee shall prepare and forward suitable blanks indicating the needed information to the secretary of each local church in the Brotherhood, three of which blanks shall be properly filled by the secretary and the elder or minister in charge, one copy of which



shall be kept on file by the local secretary, one mailed to the Secretary of the Missionary Committee of his State District, and one to the General Missionary and Tract Committee.

3. We recommend that each church choose a board of three judicious members who, with the elder or minister in charge, shall so distribute the ministerial force of the church that both her talent and territory shall be well occupied.

4. We recommend that members living in a State District where ministerial help is needed, be instructed to report in written or printed form their needs, and such assistance as they are able to give, to locate and sustain a suitable minister in their locality, to the Missionary Committee of their own State District.

5. We recommend that it shall be the duty of the Missionary Committee of each State District to keep on file for ready reference a list of suitable and available ministers, and, if possible, render the assistance needed to supply the lack in one place from the abundance of another.

6. We recommend that members living in a locality not in any State District (unless looked after by some State District) be instructed to report in like manner their needs to the General Missionary and Tract Committee.

L. W. Teeter,  
J. G. Royer,  
I. D. Parker,  
Daniel Vaniman,  
Committee.

Answer: Decided to spread on the minutes as deferred matter for one year.

#### QUERIES.

1. (a) (Grundy County.) We, the sisters of the Grundy County church, seeing we have made the same covenant with God in Christ Jesus that the brethren have made, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to repeal former decisions against us and grant us the same privilege in the breaking of the bread and passing the cup that the brethren enjoy in fulfilling the Word of the Lord. See 1 Cor. 10: 16. (By authority of the Grundy County church.)

(b) We (the Lanark church) petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to honor the sisters by allowing them to break bread, using like words of affirmation, and pass the cup as the Brethren do, believing that a more sacred feeling would be felt among the sisters if they could share these privileges, and that such would be in harmony with the teaching of the New Testament.

(c) Inasmuch as Jesus broke the bread of Communion and gave it to his disciples (see Matt. 26: 26, 27; Mark 14: 22, 23; Luke



22: 19, 20), and Paul delivered the same practice to the church at Corinth (see 1 Cor. 11: 23, 24, 25), would it not be well for ministers who officiate at love feasts to break the bread for the brethren as well as for the sisters, and thus secure uniformity, and restore the order of Christ and the practice of the primitive church?

Answer: We recommend that a committee be appointed to investigate the Gospel grounds and expediency of the change and report to Annual Meeting of 1900.

Answer: Decided that these papers be referred to a committee to report at next Annual Meeting. Committee: D. Hays, L. W. Teeter, I. B. Trout.

2. We, the Brownsville church, ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to grant us a more satisfactory as well as a more Scriptural way of electing our ministers; by allowing the official part of the church to set forth two or three brethren and ask the church which one of these shall be the minister. Acts 1: 23, 24, 25.

Answer: Decided that a committee of five be appointed to consider this question and report at the next Conference. Committee: A. H. Puterbaugh, Enoch Eby, H. C. Early, L. H. Dickey, Jesse Stutsman.

3. Since all officers at the time of their installation, are required by Annual Meeting to conform to the usages of the Brotherhood in giving shape to their clothing, hair and beard, and the non-use of tobacco,—will not the Southwestern District of Kansas and Southern Colorado ask Annual Meeting to so decide that no brother shall be advanced in office until he complies with the same?

Answer: We grant the request.

4. We the Ozawkie church, petition District Meeting,—Is it in harmony with the rules of the Brotherhood governing the election of ministers and deacons for one church of the Brotherhood to elect and install into office of the ministry a brother who has been deposed of the office of deacon in another congregation without first counseling the congregation where the brother was deposed of his former office?

Answer: We decide that the former church should be consulted.

5. We, the North Morrill church, ask whether sisters are eligible to serve as delegates to District Meeting. This District Meeting refers this to Annual Meeting for an answer.

Answer: We see no good reasons why they shall not be eligible, provided they are exemplary sisters.

6. We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting that



no member of the General Missionary and Tract Committee shall be appointed on the Gospel Messenger Advisory Committee, and that the duties of the Gospel Messenger Advisory Committee shall be extended so as to include the supervision of all the work of the General Missionary and Tract Committee.

Answer: We grant the first part of the petition, but deem it unwise to extend the duties of the Gospel Messenger Advisory Committee at this time.

7. We, the members of the North Manchester church, ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to define what is meant by the term "fashionable neckties."

Answer by District Meeting: The term "fashionable," as applied to neckties in the committee's report referred to, signifies all neckties except those worn for comfort or health.

Answer: Passed by Annual Meeting.

8. We (the members of the Yellow Creek church, Illinois) petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting of Northern Illinois to so instruct our general Sunday-school Committee, in appointing teachers to teach on Annual Meeting grounds, that they will appoint only those who are in the order of the general Brotherhood.

Answer: Request granted.

9. (a) We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting, that no brethren shall serve on "Standing Committee" or as delegate to "District Meeting" or "Annual Meeting," or as a member of any "Mission Board," who receives a remuneration from a railroad corporation or land speculators, for assistance in locating families in new countries, thus weakening the influence of their holy calling. This shall not be so construed as to prohibit brethren from accepting free transportation, for the purpose of going to see new countries for themselves. By order of the Beaver Dam church. District Meeting grants the petition.

(b) Inasmuch as some of our brethren have been employed by immigration agents and land associations to canvass, and others have given their influence by allowing their names to be used in circular letters, and thereby many have been influenced to leave comfortable homes and to seek homes in new countries, much to the dissatisfaction of many and also causing much severe criticism on our Brotherhood, therefore we ask District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting to decide that brethren shall cease thus giving encouragement to such schemes, or declare them ineligible to rep-



resent the church as delegate at District Meeting or Annual Meeting.

Answer: We grant the petitions, and decide further that, if Brethren will persist in exercising undue influence to induce emigration, they shall be called to account.

10. (Anderson church.) We ask District Meeting of the Southern District of Indiana and Annual Meeting of 1899, is it according to the Gospel and the order of the Brethren church for members to engage in a work where they are compelled to work on Sunday and to wear the uniforms, such as are worn in the mail service and fire department or any other work?

Answer: We decide that the working on Sunday has been fully covered by former decisions, and that brethren working for the Government and for corporations where the uniform is required to be worn, should wear such uniform only when engaged in such services.

11. A number of papers were presented concerning the propriety of using the Gospel Messenger as an advertising medium, and the following is meant to answer the purpose of all of them:

Answer: We recommend that the advertisements in the Gospel Messenger be limited to books and papers of moral and religious character, and to such other notices as shall be necessary in carrying forward the interest of the church.

12. We, the Brethren of Upper Twin church, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to amend Article 7, of the Minutes of Annual Meeting of 1896, so as to exclude from the privilege of sitting as delegate in District or Annual Meeting the member who has tobacco raised, as well as the one who raises it.

Answer: Petition granted.

13. Whereas, Annual Meeting of 1885, Art. 18, has decided that the right to publish additional church papers shall rest with Annual Meeting, to which petitions for such shall first be presented; and,

Whereas, Annual Meeting of 1898, Art. 7, has decided that the Brethren shall publish no papers that shall come in competition with the publications duly authorized by the Annual Conference, or publish anything in opposition to the interest and principles of the Brethren church; and,

Whereas, The Landmark violates these decisions; therefore, be it

Resolved, by this Annual Meeting, that its publication shall be discontinued.



Answer: Decided that we consider the publication of the Landmark a violation of the decisions of Annual Meeting, and hereby disapprove of its continuance, and warmly urge the patronage of the literature authorized by the Annual Meeting.

14. We ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, whether it is considered right to start and publish a paper in competition with the recognized Brethren's papers—for instance The Landmark, now being published at Warrensburg, Mo.? If not, what course should be pursued with those doing so, and also the elders and ministers whose names appear in said paper as the Board of Counsel?

Answer: We do not consider it right for Brethren to start papers on such a plan; and elders and ministers, whose names appear as stated, should withdraw from the Board of Counsel.

15. What course shall be pursued in ordaining elders at mission points outside of State Districts?

Answer: Let the General Missionary and Tract Committee, by the consent of the church, decide to what State District said points belong, then let the ordination be carried out according to the regular order.

16. The Committee decides that Sec. 9 of its constitution, referring to rebate on tract interest, is detrimental to the work of the endowment and hence asks Annual Meeting to remove said clause from the constitution.

Answer: Request granted by Annual Meeting.

**Annual Report of the General Missionary and Tract Committee of  
the German Baptist Brethren Church for the Year  
Ending March 31, 1899.**

To the Annual Meeting Assembled at Roanoke, Virginia, May 23, 1899:—

In submitting this brief report of the work of the Committee a profound sense of the Father's care and blessings has been felt. While reverses have come in one field and progress in another is not so marked, yet the Lord has blessed the work and the Committee presses forward, realizing that it is for the church to sow the seed and let the Lord of the harvest give the increase as he deems best.

A brief review of the work for the year is as follows:



### India.

The report for India closes with April, 1899. From the beginning of the mission in 1894 to this date, 42 have been received into church membership, 1 has been disowned, 3 died. The present membership is 45, of which 32 are Hindoos, 1 Parsee, 1 Syrian, 3 Eurasian, 8 American. As organized into a congregation there are 2 elders, 1 minister in the second degree, 1 deacon, 2 lay evangelists, 1 colporteur, 2 day teachers, 3 Sunday-school teachers. One outstation at Navsari is occupied. Three love feasts have been held. The orphanage has a present enrollment of 34. 11 have died and 12 have been baptized. The response of the churches to donate for the orphans' home in India has been prompt and liberal, and the workers in India are using due caution to expend the consecrated amount judiciously.

### Asia Minor.

The dark cloud of persecution which fell upon the consecrated and energetic effort of Eld. G. J. Fercken at Smyrna is recorded in sadness. So bright with promise, so richly blessed in every way, it is hard to understand why the work of saving souls should be brought so abruptly to a close. Brother Fercken sowed the seed thoroughly and the gathering called forth the bitterness of the enemy. Elder D. L. Miller writes in a recent letter that he has little hopes of re-establishing the orphanage, as the Sultan has given orders to watch all American Orphanages and eject any workers who seem to be successful. The Committee is unable to give a complete report, inasmuch as Brother and Sister Miller are now at Smyrna and have not yet reported the results of their investigations. It is still hoped that the work there may be continued in some way.

### Switzerland.

When it was definitely known that Eld. Fercken could not return to Smyrna it was decided that he open a mission in Switzerland. Accordingly he has begun at Lancy, a point not far from Geneva. The village has no Protestant service, and Bro. Fercken writes that he considers it a splendid opening. No progress can be reported for the mission has just been started.

### Denmark.

The membership is as follows: 4 elders, 2 ministers, 7 deacons, a total of 82 members; 487 meetings and 3 love feasts were held; 2 were baptized, 1 disowned, and 3 died.



### Sweden.

There are four congregations, having a total membership of 84. Of these 3 are elders, 4 ministers and three deacons. 486 meetings were held; 3 baptized, 2 died. Bro. Hope did considerable work in this field during the past year, with good results among the members. Bro. H. O. Weyler is doing a good work in Stockholm. Since he moved, a few months ago, he has preached 20 times, held 35 prayer meetings, distributed 1,847 tracts, visited 1,796 homes. He held 1 love feast, 1 council meeting and baptized 4.

### United States.

The work in this great field has been carried forward along four lines of effort.

1. The work in Germantown, Pa., Chicago, Ill., Arkansas, Southern Missouri, and Florida has been continued under the direct supervision of the Committee with very satisfactory results. 27 have been received into membership by baptism and 20 by letter.

2. Through tract distribution and work in the Sunday school and industrial circle, very effectual work has been done at Chicago, Children's Mission, Atlanta Ga., and the Open Door Mission of Brooklyn, N. Y.

3. The Dispensary at Chicago has proven itself a valuable adjunct to the work in that city, and it is encouraging to know that it has become self-sustaining.

4. Through District Mission Boards in the various State Districts one-half of all the Districts have received help from the General Board during the year and a number of meeting houses have been erected. Special mention is due the Mission Board of Eastern Maryland, now caring for the Washington, D. C. Mission. Under their general supervision and the earnest efforts of those at Washington, the work is progressing. Contributions for the long desired house of worship are good and it is hoped that soon the brethren and sisters will have a place of worship of their own.

### Donations to Build Meetinghouses.

District of Oregon, Ashland congregation, . . . . .	\$100 00
District of Southern Mo., Palestine congregation, . .	156 00
District of Southeastern Kansas, Parsons congregation, . . . . .	200 00
District of Eastern Pennsylvania, Mechanic's Grove congregation, . . . . .	100 00
District of Northeastern Kansas, Kansas City congregation, . . . . .	300 00
Second District of Virginia, Staunton congregation,	100 00
Districts of Northern and Middle Ind., Ft. Wayne	



congregation, .....	\$600 00	
District of Northwestern Kansas, North Solomon		
congregation, .....	100 00	
District of North Dakota, Cando congregation, ..	300 00	
First District of West Virginia, Red Oak con-		
gregation, .....	100 00	
District of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, Ash		
Ridge congregation, Wis., .....	125 00	
District of Southern Pennsylvania, Hanover con-		
gregation, .....	100 00	
Total, .....		\$2,281 00

### Loans to Build Meetinghouses.

District of Southern Mo., Palestine congregation, \$200 00		
District of N. Dak., Cando congregation, .....	300 00	
District of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, Ash		
Ridge congregation, Wis., .....	125 00	
Second District of Va., Staunton congregation, ..	300 00	
District of Southeastern Kans., Parsons congrega-		
tion, .....	400 00	
District of Northeastern Kansas, Kansas City		
congregation, .....	300 00	
District of Northwestern Kansas and Colorado,		
Grand Valley congregation, Colorado, .....	250 00	
Total, .....		\$1,875 00

### Summary.

State Districts assisted, .....	18
Donations for Meetinghouses, .....	12
Loans for Meetinghouses, .....	7
Received by baptism in all fields under the General Committee, ....	64

### Financial.

#### World-Wide Fund.

#### Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of the year, .....	\$2,881 15
Donations and Interest on Endowment Notes, \$9,559 06	
Earnings from Paid in Endowment, .....	1,736 57
Earnings from Brethren Publishing House, ..	7,000 00
Earnings from Bank Deposit, .....	56 73
Earnings from Covina Farm, .....	2,040 15
Cassel Donations, .....	25 00
A personal account, .....	300 00
Meetinghouse Bills Receivable, .....	568 92
Mission to American Indians, .....	1 00
Mission to Africa, .....	4 50
Mission to China, .....	35 11
Mission to the Philippines, .....	75
Mission to Cuba, .....	2 25
	\$21,330 04

Total, .....\$24,211 19

#### Expenditures:

Meetinghouse Donations, .....	\$2,281 00
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Loans for Meetinghouses, .....	\$1,875 00	
District Mission Work in California, .....	300 00	
District Mission Work in Southern Indiana, .....	100 00	
District Mission Work in Middle Iowa, .....	545 00	
District Mission Work in Northern Iowa, ..	50 00	
District Mission Work in N. W. Kans., ..	200 00	
District Mission Work in N. E. Kans., .....	300 00	
District Mission Work in S. E. Kans., ...	100 00	
District Mission Work in S. W. Kans., ...	175 00	
District Mission Work in Eastern Maryland, including Washington, .....	1,355 77	
District Mission Work in Northern Mo., ....	100 00	
District Mission Work in North Dakota, ....	150 00	
District Mission Work in Oklahoma, .....	200 00	
District Mission Work in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, .....	600 00	
District Mission Work in Eastern Pa., .....	300 00	
District Mission Work in Middle Pa., .....	150 00	
District Mission Work in Texas, .....	350 00	
District Mission Work in 1st Dist. of Va., ..	50 00	
District Mission Work in 2nd Dist. of Va., ..	125 00	
Mission in Switzerland, .....	205 00	
Mission in Denmark, .....	938 96	
Mission in Sweden, .....	1,512 13	
Mission among the Scandinavians in America, Chicago, including the Dispensary, .....	168 13	
Brooklyn, N. Y., .....	963 59	
Germantown, Pa., .....	558 09	
Arkansas and Missouri, .....	537 54	
Louisiana, .....	956 16	
Florida, .....	103 65	
Negro Mission, .....	352 30	
Traveling Secretaries, Expenses and Time, ..	572 63	
Traveling Expenses of Com. to Meetings, ..	1,275 84	
Annuities for the year, .....	341 13	
Missionary Gospel Mesengers, .....	3,081 49	
Office Fixtures Account Closed, .....	920 25	
Auditing Committee, .....	225 25	
Secretary's Salary for the year, .....	35 55	
Attorney's Fees, .....	600 00	
Recording Incorporation Papers, .....	305 00	
Endowment Expense, .....	3 50	
Postage, Stationery, etc., .....	31 16	
Hoover Property, Ohio, .....	86 94	
Annual Meeting Committees, .....	94 06	
Committee on Locating office, .....	304 45	
	157 87	\$23,637 44
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Balance of cash on hand, .....		\$ 573 75

## Book and Tract Fund.

## Receipts:

Donations and Interest on Endowment Notes, .....	\$1,369 77
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Earnings on Endowments paid in, .....	\$ 990 00	
Total, .....		\$ 2,359 77

Expenditures:		
Baltimore Mission, .....	\$144 00	
Waterloo, Iowa, .....	150 00	
Des Moines, Iowa, .....	67 45	
Washington, D. C., .....	72 00	
Atlanta, Ga., .....	304 45	
Rebate on Interest, .....	669 35	
Tract Examining Committee, .....	23 15	
Missionary Gospel Messengers, .....	601 10	
Tract Publication, .....	278 67	\$ 2,310 17
Balance on hand, .....		\$ 49 60

Washington Meetinghouse Fund.

Receipts:		
Balance on hand at beginning of the year, \$	466 67	
Donations, .....	3,642 26	
Total, .....		\$4,108 93
Expenditures:		
Expenses of Collectors, .....	\$ 86 45	
Tax on Property, .....	153 47	\$ 239 92
Balance on hand, .....		\$3,869 01

India Mission Fund.

Receipts:		
Balance on hand at beginning of the year, .....		\$ 864 31
Donations, .....	\$ 545 43	
From Bills Rec., Interest-Bearing Funds, ..	1,500 00	
Earnings on Endowment paid in, .....	294 60	2,340 03
Total, .....		\$3,204 34
Expenditures:		
For Mission and Orphanage, .....		\$3,040 00
Balance on hand, .....		\$ 164 34

India Orphanage.

Receipts:		
Balance on hand, .....		\$3,797 24
General Donations, .....	\$1,170 87	
A Special Donation, .....	1,000 00	
Earning from Brethren Publishing House, ..	1,000 00	3,170 87
Total, .....		\$6,968 11



## Expenditures:

For the Orphanage, .....	\$3,000 00	
A Cablegram, .....	10 33	\$3,010 33
		<hr/>
Balance on hand, .....		\$3,957 78

## Asia Minor.

## Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of the year, .....		\$2,117 77
Donations for the Mission, .....	\$ 519 96	
Donations for the Orphanage, .....	829 08	1,349 04
		<hr/>
Total, .....		\$3,466 81

## Expenditures:

For Mission and Orphanage, .....	\$2,194 38
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Balance on hand, .....	\$1,272 43
Gish Testament Fund Balance, .....	1,121 27
India Orphanage Home, .....	1,355 83

## Resources and Liabilities of the Several Funds on April 1, 1899.

## Interest-Bearing Funds:

## Resources:

## Liabilities:

Real Estate, .....	\$ 6,921 50	
Brethren Publishing House, .....	56,000 00	
Bills Receivable, .....	145,854 43	
Donations for Purchasing Publishing House, .....		\$75,737 99
India Mission Fund, .....		3,500 00
India Endowment, .....		1,050 00
Gospel Messenger Endowment, ....		150 00
Denmark Poor Fund, .....		2,000 00
Gish Estate in Bills Receivable, ...		29,936 78
Income from Gish Estate, .....		1,002 56
Tract Endowment Paid in, .....		20,330 06
World-Wide Endowment Paid in, ..		61,928 09
Reserve Fund of Pub. Department, .....		16,000 00
(Cash Balance, \$2,859.54)		

## World-Wide Fund:

Hoover Estate in Virginia, .....	\$ 422 73	
Cassel Donations, .....	28 64	
Hoover Property, Ohio, .....	182 06	
Meetinghouse Bills Receivable, .....	5,671 91	
Chicago Home, .....		\$ 64 55
Mission to the Indians of America, ..		1 00
Mission to Africa, .....		13 00
Mission to China, .....		66 53
Mission to the Philippine Islands, ..		75
Mission to Cuba, .....		2 25
World-Wide Fund, .....		6,831 21
(Cash Balance, \$573.95)		

## Washington Meetinghouse:

Balance of donations, .....	\$ 3,869 01
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## Book and Tract Fund:

Balance on hand, .....	\$	49 60
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## Gish Testament Fund:

Balance on hand, .....		1,121 27
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## Asia Minor Mission:

Overdrawn for the Mission, .....	\$	1,479 82
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Balance on hand for Orphanage, ....		2,752 25
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(Cash Balance, \$1,272.43)

## India Mission.

Balance for Mission Fund, .....	\$	164 34
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Balance for Orphanage, .....		3,957 78
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Donated for the Home and Orphanage,		1,355 83
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Total Cash for all Funds, .....	\$	15,323 76
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Total, .....	\$231,884 85	\$231,884 85
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## Assets.

Cash on hand in the several Mission Funds, \$	12,464 22
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Interest-Bearing Funds, .....	211,635 47
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Value of Real Estate above Investment, ....	3,000 00
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Estimated Value of Gish Estate, not included	
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in "Interest-Bearing Funds," .....	28,500 00
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Pledged Endowments, Interest and Non-	
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Interest-Bearing, .....	154,149 00
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Total Assets, .....	\$409,748 69
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Assets, March 31, 1898, .....	\$308,333 96
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Increase, .....	\$101,414 73
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Of the "Interest-Bearing Funds" loaned out on mortgage security two-thirds of the number of mortgages, representing about four-fifths of the amount loaned, is held against persons not in the Brethren church. These loans are found in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Arkansas, Kansas and California.

## Brethren Publishing House.

## Financial Statement.

## Resources:

Cash on hand April 1, 1899, .....	\$	1,838 78
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Machinery, .....	5,355 45
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Type, Cases, etc., .....	8,127 06
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Office Fixtures, .....	320 92
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Reserve Fund held in Mortgages, .....	16,000 00
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Bills Receivable, .....	176 80
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Uncollected Ledger Accounts before April,	
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1897, .....	2,306 15
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Uncollected Ledger Accounts for year	
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1897-98, .....	67 67
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Uncollected Ledger Accounts for year	
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1898-99, .....	3,835 56
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Inventory in Expense Account, .....	\$ 288 83	
Inventory in Merchandise Account, .....	2,179 58	
Inventory in Gospel Messenger Account	1,331 67	
Inventory in Young Disciple Account, ....	500 00	
Inventory in Quarterly Account, .....	83 60	
Inventory in "Church History" Account,	167 90	
Inventory in Pilot Account, .....	405 24	
Inventory in Job Work Account, .....	280 00	
Inventory in Book Subscription Dept., ....	815 26	
Special Accounts, .....	29 37	
		<hr/>
Total, .....		\$44,109 84
Liabilities:		
Capital at the beginning of the year which includes the earnings of one year ago not taken out of the business, .....	\$26,134 94	
Paid Messenger Subscriptions, 9 months to run, .....	12,400 00	
Paid Young Disciple Subscriptions 3 and 9 months to run, .....	750 00	
Paid Children at Work Subscriptions 3 and 9 months to run, .....	100 00	
Invoice of Advertisements, .....	125 80	
Gish Testament Fund, .....	237 78	
Gish Publishing Fund, .....	53 80	
Gospel Messenger Poor Fund, .....	7 69	
"Mind Mystery" Account, .....	25 08	
Earnings for the year, .....	\$12,274 75	
Paid to the Mission Board, ....	8,000 00	
Earnings not taken out of the Business, ..	4,274 75	
		<hr/>
Total, .....		\$44,109 84

The above is a statement of the Ledger of the Publishing Department given in detail except the item "Special Accounts" which represents two personal accounts.

The total amount of business done during the year is \$110,065.15, an increase of \$1,584.60. However this is not a fair comparison, for one year ago there were about \$6,250 worth of Bibles handled with the Messenger subscription which swelled the volume of business without adding to the profits. Making due allowance for this, the real increase in business is about \$8,000.

The increase in profits is the result of reducing expenses in some departments, and in the increased sales of merchandise and Sunday-school supplies.

While there has been no marked increase in the circulation of the Gospel Messenger, it has held the increase of 3,000 subscriptions of one year ago, and thus far 1899 has shown an increased interest in the paper.



The salaries of the officers of the House remain unchanged from one year ago.

#### Conclusion.

That there is growth in the work is noted in the income for World-wide Missions being \$4,000 larger than last year and the endowment over \$100,000 more. A corresponding effort has been made in every field.

The report is necessarily brief. Yet it is hoped that the facts and figures to which it must be confined are sufficiently complete to encourage every one to still greater effort. Let there be no pulling back by any one of the church, but on every hand and in every land let the message be proclaimed with all speed.

Enoch Eby, Kansas.

D. L. Miller, Illinois.

S. F. Sanger, Virginia.

L. W. Teeter, Indiana.

A. B. Barnhart, Maryland.

Committee.

#### To the Annual Meeting of 1899:—

We, your Auditing Committee, appointed to examine the books of the General Missionary and Tract Committee and those under its control beg to submit the following:

We footed all the items of the Cash Book of the Brethren Publishing House, checked the totals through posting into the Ledger, footed the Ledger, followed the balances into the Balance Sheet, examined carefully the statement of Resources and Liabilities as set forth in the report herewith presented to your body, and find the work correct in every particular and the statement of Resources and Liabilities, including the gain mentioned, to be true and right to the cent.

We compared the donations to the several mission funds published in the Gospel Messenger with the books of the Committee, proved all the pages of the Cash Book, compared all the amounts paid out with the receipts on hand, checked the amounts through posting into the Ledger and found the same true and correct according to the statement herewith submitted to you.

We carefully examined all the securities held by the Committee, find them to be all right, and the interest on all the loans made by the General Missionary and Tract Committee, paid up promptly.

In doing this work we spent forty-eight hours and are glad to state we found the books correct. Respectfully submitted.

Committee: Lewis R. Peifer, John Mellinger, Aaron L. Clair.



Reports of the General Missionary and Tract Committee and Auditing Committee accepted and approved by the Annual Meeting.

### Report of Joseph Amick, Annual Meeting Treasurer.

#### Receipts.

June 1, 1898, to balance from 1897, .....	\$373 61
March 30, 1899, to net surplus of Annual Meeting	
Minutes for 1898, .....	211 36
<hr/>	
Total, .....	\$584 97

#### Expenditures.

June 1, 1898, date for all the following:

J. P. Zigler, school visit to Bridgewater College, ..	\$ 3 15
L. A. Wenger, school visit to Bridgewater College,	3 00
S. A. Sanger, school visit to Bridgewater College,	2 00
I. B. Trout, school visit to Mt. Morris College, ..	9 00
P. R. Keltner, school visit to Mt. Morris College, ..	9 60
Frank Myers, school visit to Mt. Morris College, ..	4 44
A. Hutchison, school visit to Lordsburg, College,	1 00
P. S. Myers, school visit to Lordsburg College, ..	1 00
Jas. A. Sell, school visit to Juniata College, ....	9 00
Thos. Maddock, school visit to Juniata College, ..	4 50
E. D. Book, school visit to Juniata College, .....	7 91
L. W. Fitzwater, school visit to McPherson Col.,	1 80
Thos. Winey, school visit to McPherson College, ..	1 30
Wm. Johnson, school visit to McPherson College,	1 84
Dorsey Hodgden, school visit to North Man-	
chester College, .....	2 00
Jacob Snell, school visit to No. Manchester College,	1 00
Daniel Hays, committee work, .....	12 00
June 25, to L. J. Hooke, Annual Meeting Committee	
Secretary, .....	18 20
Balance on hand March 30, 1899, .....	492 23

Total, .....	\$584 97
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Examined and approved by the Auditing Committee of 1899.  
Committee: Lewis R. Peifer, John C. Mellinger, Aaron L. Clair.

Accepted and approved by Annual Meeting.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

#### Report of the Committee to Eastern Pennsylvania.

The report from Eastern Pennsylvania was presented, heard and carefully considered. After due deliberation it was recommended and decided to continue a committee, and the following were appointed: W. R. Deeter, Daniel Hays, L. H. Dickey, J. G. Royer.



### **Report of the Committee to Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia.**

The report of the committee was submitted and shows encouraging progress. The report was accepted, and the committee continued to carry forward its work. The committee: S. F. Sanger, Samuel Sprankle, L. A. Wenger.

### **Incorporation of Trustees in Pennsylvania.**

Since the Statutes of the State of Pennsylvania require at least three members of a corporate body like ours to reside within the said State, and since only one of the trustees of the General Conference of the German Baptist Brethren Church resides within said State, therefore Standing Committee of Annual Meeting of 1899 recommends to General Conference the appointment of two more trustees, that they, with the five trustees already incorporated under the Statutes of the State of Wisconsin, may also incorporate in the State of Pennsylvania. See page 14, Minutes of 1898.

Answer: The request was granted and James A. Sell and G. N. Falkenstein appointed.

### **Letters of Greeting.**

After the reading of the letters of Christian greeting from Denmark, Sweden and India, the entire meeting, by a rising vote, gave an earnest expression of its willingness to receive the greetings, and also decided to send greetings to all the workers in foreign fields, and instructed the Standing Committee to prepare and forward letters of greeting to the different foreign fields in the name of the Annual Meeting.

### **Committees Appointed.**

Committee on Credentials: E. W. Stoner, S. S. Ullery, David Hollinger.

Committee on Resolutions: W. R. Deeter, W. B. Yount, Galen B. Royer.

Sunday School Committee: A. C. Wieand, I. N. H. Beahm, I. B. Trout. Reappointed, I. B. Trout.

Tract Examining Committee: Daniel Hays, L. W. Teeter, J. H. Moore, D. S. Filbrun. Appointed, H. C. Early.

Treasurer of Annual Meeting: Reappointed, Joseph Amick.

Missionary and Tract Committee: S. F. Sanger, A. B. Barnhart, L. W. Teeter, D. L. Miller. John Zuck appointed, and D. L. Miller reappointed.



Messenger Advisory Committee: Daniel Hays, W. R. Deeter, Enoch Eby. Reappointed, Enoch Eby.

Auditing Committee: Lewis R. Peifer, John C. Mellinger, Aaron L. Clair. Reappointed, Aaron L. Clair.

School Visiting Committee: Huntingdon, Pa., Walter Long; Bridgewater, Va., H. C. Early; Mt. Morris, Ill., P. R. Keltner; David Rowland in the place of D. B. Eby, two years; McPherson, Kans., Geo. E. Wise; North Manchester, Ind., Geo. L. Studebaker, to fill the unexpired term of Jacob Snell, J. H. Wright.

Committees to Churches:

Donnel's Creek church, Ohio: W. R. Deeter, L. T. Holsinger, D. F. Hoover, J. P. Zigler, S. S. Ullery.

A committee to the Cerrogordo church Ill., continued: D. F. Hoover, W. R. Harshbarger, John Zuck.

#### **Calls for the Annual Meeting.**

(1) Nebraska. (2) Northern Missouri. (3) Middle Missouri. (4) Middle Indiana. (5) Southern Ohio. (6) Northwestern Ohio. (7) Eastern Pennsylvania.

The next Annual Meeting will be held in the Middle District of Indiana.

#### **Resolutions.**

Resolved, That we offer our sincere thanks

1. To the Father for His mercy and care during this Annual Meeting.

2. To the First District of Virginia, and especially to the Brethren and friends in and around the city of Roanoke, for their ample provisions, good accommodations, kindness and hospitality during the meeting.

3. To the pastors of the several churches who so cordially invited our ministers to occupy their pulpits.

4. To the Norfolk and Western Railway Company and other roads that have favored those attending this meeting with a special rate.

#### **Standing Committee for 1899.**

1. First District of Asia Minor, .....
2. Sweden, .....C. Hope
3. Denmark, .....By letter
4. Oregon, Washington and Idaho, .....John Bonewitz
5. California and Arizona, .....J. S. Flory
6. Oklahoma and Indian Territory, .....A. W. Austin
7. Texas and Southern Louisiana, .....J. A. Miller



8. Southwestern Kansas and Southern Colorado, ..... Enoch Eby
  9. Northwestern Kansas and Northern Colorado, ..... I. S. Lerew
  10. Southwestern Kansas and Northern Oklahoma, ..... W. B. Sell
  11. Northeastern Kansas, ..... Geo. E. Wise
  12. Nebraska, ..... J. B. Moore
  13. Michigan, ..... S. M. Smith
  14. North Dakota and Northern Minnesota, ..... J. L. Thomas
  15. Northern Iowa, Southern Minnesota and S. Dak., .. O. J. Beaver
  16. Middle Iowa, ..... John Zuck
  17. Southern Iowa, ..... C. M. Brower
  18. Northern Missouri, ..... G. W. Ellenberger
  19. Middle Missouri, ..... David Bowman
  20. Southern Missouri and Arkansas, ..... Henry Brubaker
  21. Southern Illinois, ..... M. J. McClure, J. H. Baker
  22. Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, ..... I. B. Trout
  23. Northern Indiana, ..... A. H. Puterbaugh
  24. Middle Indiana, ..... L. T. Holsinger
  25. Southern Indiana, ..... D. C. Campbell
  26. Northwestern Ohio, ..... L. H. Dickey
  27. Northeastern Ohio, ..... H. M. Shutt
  28. Southern Ohio, ..... W. K. Simmons
  29. Western Pennsylvania, ..... Not represented
  30. Middle Pennsylvania, ..... Jas. A. Sell
  31. Southern Pennsylvania, ..... Jacob Hollinger
  32. Eastern Pennsylvania, ..... J. Y. King
  33. Western Maryland, ..... I. W. Abernathy
  34. Middle Maryland, ..... A. B. Barnhart
  35. Eastern Maryland, ..... Thomas J. Kolb
  36. Second District of West Virginia, ..... D. J. Miller
  37. First District of West Virginia, ..... Geo. S. Arnold
  38. Second District of Virginia, ..... H. C. Early, J. P. Zigler
  39. First District of Virginia, ..... D. A. Naff
  40. Tennessee, North Carolina and Florida, ..... J. B. Pence
- L. T. Holsinger, Moderator; I. B. Trout, Reading Clerk; J. H. Moore, Writing Clerk; A. H. Puterbaugh, Assistant Writing Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1900.

North Manchester, Ind.

The Meeting was organized by electing Eld. D. L. Miller, Moderator; Eld. L. W. Teeter, Reading Clerk; Eld. D. Hays, Writing



Clerk; Eld. H. B. Brumbaugh, Assistant Writing Clerk; Eld. David Hollinger, Doorkeeper.

The General Conference was opened at 8 A. M., June 5, 1900.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

1. Whereas there has been organized, with headquarters at Germantown, a German Baptist Brethren Historical Association, whose object is to collect, preserve and diffuse the history of our church; and whereas this seems to us to be a work that will be of great practical value to the church, therefore the Green Tree church, in conference met, requests the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to forward to the next General Conference of the church, this paper, along with a copy of the Constitution of said Historical Association, requesting said Conference to consider the practicability of incorporating said Historical Association into our church body.

Answer: Decided to appoint a committee of five brethren to take this matter under consideration and report at the next Annual Meeting. Committee: D. L. Miller, Daniel Vaniman, M. J. McClure, Jas. A. Sell, J. T. Myers.

Report of committee:

We fully appreciate the value of our church documents and the importance of preserving them, and the work our brethren have done in organizing an association, but we do not think it best to incorporate it into our church work at this time. We, however, recommend that the brethren concerned be encouraged to carry the work forward. Committee: D. L. Miller, Daniel Vaniman, Jas. A. Sell, J. T. Myers, M. J. McClure.

Answer: Report accepted by Annual Meeting.

2. (a) Inasmuch as our Hymnals do not contain sufficient Sunday-school and missionary songs, and as the introduction of additional books to supply this deficiency has a tendency to divide the song service, therefore, we, the members of the Oakland congregation, ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to so revise our Hymnals that this deficiency may be supplied within the compass of one book.

(b) Petition from Solomon's Creek church: As there is quite a diversity of song and hymn books in use among us, thereby preventing harmony in our song service, and inasmuch as the "Brethren's Hymnal" and the "Sunday School Song Book" do not meet the wants of the church, will not District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to supply this want and direct that all the churches use the same book in all of our services?



These queries were submitted to a committee, and answered as follows:

1. Inasmuch as there is now forthcoming by authority of Annual Meeting of 1896 (See Art. 18), a No. 2 Sunday School Song Book, which will likely be published soon, and thus supply the demand along that line for the present.

2. In view of the importance of this question submitted, and the limited time for its consideration, we ask for time until next Annual Meeting to carefully consider the question. But we suggest (1) that in the meantime the churches use the Hymnal and Sunday School Song Book, as recommended by Annual Meeting. (2) That the Brethren Publishing House collect suitable hymns and music, as opportunity affords, as a stock to draw from when needed.

Committee: L. W. Teeter, L. H. Dickey, H. E. Light.

Report of the Committee:

After carefully considering this question we recommend the following:

1. That the publication of the Hymn Book and Hymnal be continued in about the form and size they now are.

2. That a committee of three be appointed to revise both the Hymn Book and Hymnal according to the following outline:

(1) Revise the Hymn Book, expunging a sufficient number of the hymns least in general use to admit a Sunday-school department of sufficient compass that, by the use of some hymns from other departments, the book may be used for Sunday school song service.

(2) Give special attention to the doctrine of all the hymns, and arrange them topically, and fully indexed.

3. Revise the Hymnal (1) to contain the same hymns as those in the Hymn Book, and topically arranged and indexed. (2) To contain few, if any duplicates, thus giving us a greater variety of tunes without increasing the size of the book.

4. We recommend that the publication of the Hymn Book and Hymnal be turned over to the Brethren Publishing House, and that they should put them in substantial binding, and sell them as near cost as possible. Committee: L. W. Teeter, L. H. Dickey, H. E. Light.

Answer: Decided to spread the report on the Minutes and defer one year.

Answer: Report adopted and committee of three appointed, viz., D. L. Miller, L. T. Holsinger, H. B. Brumbaugh.

3. (a) (Grundy County.) We, the sisters of the Grundy County church, seeing we have made the same covenant with God



in Christ Jesus that the brethren have made, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to repeal former decisions against us and grant us the same privilege in the breaking of the bread and passing the cup that the brethren enjoy in fulfilling the Word of the Lord. See 1 Cor. 10: 16. (By authority of the Grundy County church.)

(b) We (the Lanark church) petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to honor the sisters by allowing them to break bread, using like words of affirmation, and pass the cup as the brethren do, believing that a more sacred feeling would be felt among the sisters if they could share these privileges, and that such would be in harmony with the teachings of the New Testament.

(c) Inasmuch as Jesus broke the bread of Communion and gave it to his disciples (see Matt. 26: 26, 27; Mark 14: 22, 23; Luke 22: 19, 20), and Paul delivered the same practice to the church at Corinth (see 1 Cor. 11: 23, 24, 25), would it not be well for ministers who officiate at love feasts to break the bread for the brethren as well as for the sisters, and thus secure uniformity, and restore the order of Christ and the practice of the primitive church?

Answer: We recommend that a committee be appointed to investigate the Gospel grounds and the expediency of the change and report to Annual Meeting of 1900.

Answer: Decided that these papers be referred to a committee to report at next Annual Meeting. Committee: D. Hays, L. W. Teeter, I. B. Trout.

#### Report of the Committee:

We, the undersigned committee, ask to report the following, to wit: After a careful investigation of the question, our judgment is that Matt. 26: 26, 27; Mark 14: 23; Luke 22: 19, 20; 1 Cor. 11: 23, 24, 25, warrant us to administer the bread and cup of communion to the brethren, individually, in the same manner as the practice now is to administer them to the sisters.

We consider that this change would be in harmony with the teaching and example of Christ and also in harmony with the practice of the church during the apostolic period. Committee: D. Hays, L. W. Teeter, I. B. Trout.

Answer: Decided to spread on the Minutes and defer one year.

4. We, the Brownsville church ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to grant us a more satisfactory as well as a more Scriptural way of electing our ministers; by allowing the official



part of the church to set forth two or three brethren and ask the church which of these shall be the minister. Acts 1: 23, 24, 25.

Answer: Decided that a committee of five be appointed to consider this question and report at the next Conference. Committee: A. H. Puterbaugh, Enoch Eby, H. C. Early, L. H. Dickey, Jesse Stutsman.

Report of the committee:

1. Let the meetings be opened in harmony with our general customs of opening religious services. Then set forth the importance of the work in which the church is to engage,—the qualifications of the officer or officers to be elected, and the need of divine help and guidance, followed by earnest prayer by the church.

2. Proceed with the election according to the present method. If one brother receives all or a majority of all the votes cast, he shall be declared elected.

3. In case no one receives a majority of all the votes cast, and the vote is sufficiently concentrated to proceed (allowing the election board to be judges), select from those having the highest number of votes enough names to represent a two-thirds majority of all the votes cast, without giving the number of votes each name represents. Then the church shall proceed to vote again for one of those named. If any one receives a majority of all votes cast he shall be declared elected.

4. If the first vote for those thus named does not give one a majority of all the votes cast, the vote is to be repeated according to section 3, until one has a majority of all the votes cast.

Note.—We, your committee, earnestly request that this report be spread upon the Minutes for one year before taking final action. Committee: A. H. Puterbaugh, L. H. Dickey, Jesse Stutsman.

Answer: Request granted.

### QUERIES.

1. Whereas the dissatisfaction arising from the course some of our churches pursue in permitting sisters to wear hats, as referred to in Article 21, page 127, "Revised Minutes," still exists and,

Whereas many members cannot see why the rulings differ so much with churches under the same decisions, or why sisters in some churches are restricted more than in others; and,

Whereas some elders, ministers and churches cannot enforce the decisions of the church because of this rule, according to the



decisions of Annual Meeting against the wearing of hats without causing contention and disturbing the peace of their churches; and,

Whereas it must be apparent to all that it is not consistent with the Gospel or the principles of our church government to expel sisters in one congregation for wearing hats, and permit them to wear them in another congregation, and hold them, while so doing in full fellowship; and,

Whereas the Annual Meeting has decided that elders and ministers who allow the sisters to wear hats are transgressors (see Arts. 16 and 21, pages 126 and 127, "Revised Minutes"), now, therefore, will this District Meeting ask the Annual Meeting:

First. Whether any elder or minister who is a transgressor according to the above decisions is eligible to or can serve as a delegate at Annual Meeting?

Second. What course shall churches pursue with sisters who wear hats regardless of the decisions and advice of the Annual Meeting?

Third. Are some churches to enforce the decision and to expel sisters for wearing hats, while others are permitted to tolerate it?

Fourth. What will be the limited rule to bring all our churches to a united oneness concerning sisters wearing hats?

Answer: (Answer to first inquiry): We decide that elders or ministers who disregard decisions of Annual Meeting in their church work render themselves unworthy to represent Districts or churches at Annual Meeting.

The remaining questions in the paper we consider fully answered in Art. 3, 1898, page 128, "Revised Minutes," and we hope that decisions will in the future be more and more lived up to by our dear brethren and sisters.

2. (From the Beaver Run congregation.) Inasmuch as the holding of church festivals has become very common by many of the popular churches, we ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, whether it is according to the Scriptures and order of the church for the members of the Brethren church to aid in any way the holding of such festivals, or to attend them?

Answer: No. See Rom. 12: 2.

3. We, the West Conestoga church, Lancaster County, Pa., ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting, to devise a better plan for the use of the money in the endowment and other funds than the present mortgage one, so that such money may be loaned or donated to build meetinghouses in cities and such other places as they are needed and the churches are not able to build themselves,



the General Missionary Committee holding the title until otherwise arranged. Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answered: Submitted to a committee of five brethren who shall investigate fully and report at Annual Meeting of 1901, viz., W. R. Deeter, D. L. Miller, G. W. Lentz, J. H. Longanecker, Jas. A. Sell.

4. The Mingo church asks Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to recommend that the deacons and all our ministers be separated for the work whereunto they have been called or chosen, by the laying on of hands in accordance with Acts 6: 6 and Acts 13: 2, 3. Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Decided that this question be submitted to a committee of five to report to next Annual Meeting, viz., D. Vaniman, Geo. A. Shambarger, D. Hays, J. T. Meyers, Albert Hollinger.

5. Will not District Meeting of the Southern District of Indiana ask Annual Meeting to reconsider Art. 17 of 1884, page 215 of "Classified Minutes," and change answer to read, "We petition the General Government" as requested in said query?

Answer: While we do not make the change asked for, yet we do reaffirm the temperance principles of the church and put ourselves on record again as opposed to the manufacture and sale of intoxicants for beverages, believing that it is the duty of the Christian church to mould temperance sentiment, without which no law can become operative. We urge the greatest possible efforts of the church to create such sentiment. We also pray that our civil rulers may rise to the Gospel standard on this question.

6. Hartford City church hereby petitions District Meeting of the Southern District of Indiana to ask Annual Meeting of 1900 to appoint a committee to confer with the Central Passenger Association, asking them to grant clerical books to all ministers belonging to the German Baptist Brethren church, regardless of occupation.

Answer: Petition granted and referred to the Railroad Committee and this committee be asked to confer with all the Associations. Passed by Annual Meeting.

7. We, the members of the Mexico church, petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to give us a decision whether it is wrong for brethren, with others, to hold reunions in a sacred way, when the object is to trace the genealogy of a certain family, and to continue the same annually by an arranged program, which includes a day's exercise, with a dinner served in the grove and spread on a table.



Answer: While we cannot give our endorsement to family reunions, we would not make a decision to entirely prohibit them, but advise all our local churches to carefully guard such reunions in their respective congregations.

8. (From Silver Creek church.) We petition Annual Meeting to repeal Art. 1, 1897, which reads as follows:

We ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to appoint a Financial Secretary whose term of office shall be three years, and whose duties shall be as follows: (1) To assist the Committee of Arrangements each year in locating and managing Annual Meeting in the best and most economical way. (2) Keep in a suitable book an accurate account of the principal articles required each year, where and how purchased, how disposed of, with plans of buildings and such other items as might be of value to others in the management of the meeting.

Answer: Request granted and Lewis J. Hooke of Stockfort, Indiana, appointed Financial Secretary.

Answer: We grant the petition.

9. Cedar County church petitions District Meeting to earnestly request Annual Meeting to arrange and decide that the District west of the Mississippi River shall be entitled to have an Annual Meeting held in some one of the above Districts once in every three years, and if there are rules or decisions that conflict with the above, that they be reconsidered and so amended to agree with the above.

Answer: We recommend that the Ohio river form the line between the East and Center, and the Mississippi river between the Center and the West, and that the Annual Meeting be located in one of these divisions every three years, provided it be called for.

10. Will not District Meeting petition Annual Meeting to decide that no endowment funds belonging to the Brotherhood shall be loaned on mortgages in the future?

Answer: Referred to the Committee on Endowment Funds.

12. North Beatrice church petitions Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to instruct and authorize elders and ministers or the one whose duty it is to instruct applicants for baptism or membership in the rules of the church, to also instruct and urge them to erect a family altar, or take part in the same, and give thanks at the table and to engage in secret prayer.

Answer: Our elders and ministers have always been authorized to do what is here requested, but we emphasize the importance of carrying this out more fully.



13. The South Morrill church petitions Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to give a definite answer to the following: Is it according to the Gospel and order of the church for the brethren to wear badges and white gloves while acting as pallbearers at funerals?

Answer: We advise against the custom, and urge upon Brethren to lend their influence against the unnecessary practice.

14. Query from the Missionary and Tract Committee.—What should be the metes and bounds of symposium discussions in the Gospel Messenger?

Answer: We recommend that a committee of three brethren be appointed to take this matter under consideration and report to next Annual Meeting. Passed. Committee: D. E. Price, I. B. Trout, H. C. Early.

Through the Standing Committee the following were recommended by the General Missionary and Tract Committee for the India Mission field, and endorsed by the Conference: Adam Eby, Susie Forney, Alice King, Eliza Miller.

### ANNUAL REPORT

#### Of the General Missionary and Tract Committee of the German Baptist Brethren for the Year Ending March 31, 1900.

To the Annual Conference of the German Baptist Brethren Church Assembled at North Manchester, Indiana, June 5, 1900.

Your General Missionary and Tract Committee is pleased to render the following brief report of the work and progress it has been enabled, under the blessings of God, to accomplish during the year ending March 31, 1900.

#### India.

The little band of workers in this great heathen land, made still worse by the horrors of famine and cholera, has been laboring faithfully and not without much encouragement. At present the workers are located in Bombay Presidency as follows: Brother and Sister W. B. Stover at Bulsar; Brother and Sister D. L. Forney at Novsari; and Brother and Sister S. N. McCann at Anklesvar. This last is a new station opened within the year.

From Bulsar ten sub-stations are visited regularly, at some of which places live native members. The following table will give a good idea of the character of the work at Bulsar:

Number of Members, Native,.....	45
Number of all Members,.....	52



Pages of Tracts Distributed,.....	8,000
Number of Whole or Parts of Copies of the Bible Sold or Given away,.....	811
Number of accessions, of which four are orphans,.....	17

Six native members are helping in the out-stations. The total membership in India is fifty-six.

During the past year a suitable orphanage home was built by the funds so liberally donated one year ago for this purpose and about two hundred famine children are being cared for and instructed in the ways of the Lord. The India Famine Fund, so freely contributed, has been promptly forwarded and is being used by our missionaries in the most advantageous manner. Of the \$15,631.99 donated up to April 1, not one cent was used to pay any clerical help or expense in this country and none of the missionaries in India. And it was the good fortune of the Committee to purchase gold at par, or a little below, so that not even did the expense of remitting decrease the fund one cent. The results of this relief work will be felt for a long time to come.

The outlook at Novsari and Anklesvar is very promising. In the new year three have been received into fellowship at Novsari and a good number of inquiries are reported.

#### Asia Minor.

The Committee has made an effort to get a suitable brother to go to this field, but so far did not succeed. The field is a difficult one, and though a number are holding faithfully to the church, the Committee at this time is sending no support, but waiting to determine what is best to be done.

#### Switzerland.

Brother Fercken's reports in the Gospel Messenger have kept the Brotherhood informed as to the remarkable progress in the field. Let it be said that two congregations have been organized, one at Lancy, Switzerland, and the other at Oyannax, France. The membership in Switzerland, including Brother Fercken's own family (three), is fifteen; in France, twelve; total, twenty-seven. One minister, located at Oyannax, is helping in the work, and the outlook is more than encouraging. An effort is being made to secure funds to build a meetinghouse, much needed, and the church is earnestly recommended to contribute to this fund. The proposed cost of the house is \$1,000.

#### Denmark and Sweden.

It is gratifying to note an increase in membership among the



churches of first planting in missionary effort. Here is where Elder C. Hope labored most earnestly. Within the past year he was "gathered unto the fathers," God calling him while actively engaged in work in Texas.

The following table will show the condition of the church:

CONGREGATIONS.		Elders.	Ministers.	Deacons.	Members.	Meetings.	Love Feasts.	Baptisms.	Restored.	Disowned.	Died.
Denmark,											
Vensyssel, .....		3	2	3	53	462	4	2		4	1
Thy, .....		1	1	3	30	97	2	4	1		1
Total, .....		4	3	6	83	559	6	6	1	4	2
Sweden,											
Kjefflinge, .....		1	2	1	16	95				2	
Malmo, .....		1	1	2	26	86	2				
Linhavn, .....				2	24	126	1				
Wannaberga, .....		1	1		27	135				3	
Total, .....		3	4	4	93	442	3			5	

Brother H. O. Wejler, at Stockholm, has been laboring faithfully, preaching ninety-one times during the year, holding three love feasts and six councils, making 5,612 visits and distributing 6,318 tracts. Five have been baptized, making the membership seven.

United States.													
MISSION POINTS.	Sermons Preached.	Prayer Meetings Attended.	Sunday Schools Attended.	Pastoral Visits.	Funerals.	Average Congregations.	Av. Attendance at Prayer Meeting.	Av. Attendance at Sunday School.	Council Meetings.	Love Feasts.	Received by Letter.	Received by Baptism.	Moved away.
Chicago, .....	103	52	52		2	50	17	116	3	3	16	1	16
Germantown, ...	113	49	51		9	20	10	41	4	2			
Florida, .....	106	34	49	178	2	33	21	23	5	2		4	14
Palestine, Ark., .	172	44	40	123	2	50	16	30	15	5	1	9	8
Gainesville, Ark.,	182	3	2	150		35	13	12	5	4	6	6	6
Poplar Bluff, Mo.,	204	7	3	31	6				14	5	8	6	1
Total, ..	880	189	197	482	21	188	77	222	46	21	31	26	44

Though under some difficulties, the work in Brooklyn, New York, is progressing very well under the direction of Brother and Sister J. Edson Ulery. Next year a more complete report will be made.



### Traveling Secretaries.

The Committee has thought best to have at least two Traveling Secretaries at work to develop missionary sentiment and solicit funds. The results of their work, as shown by the following, is most satisfactory:

Endowment Contracts, .....	\$101,005 00
Cash Endowments, .....	3,700 00
World-Wide Mission Funds Collected, .....	800 00

### Tract Distribution.

During the year the Committee has had no regular tract distributors, leaving the ministers in charge to use tracts as freely as would enable them to accomplish their work successfully. 1,072,000 pages of tracts were sent out on their messages of love. The Tract Tablet is growing in popularity and usefulness, but would do still greater good, were it used more freely.

### Summary.

Number of State Districts Assisted, .....	17
Number of Donations to Build Meetinghouses, .....	7
Number of Loans to Build Meetinghouses, .....	1
Number Baptized in all Fields under the General Board, .....	70

### Financial.

#### World-wide Fund.

#### Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of year, .....	\$ 573 95
Extra Income Covina Farm belonging to last year, ..	100 00
Donations from Congregations and Individuals, including interest paid on Endowment Contracts, as reported weekly in the Gospel Messenger, ....	\$13,979 59
Income from Endowment loaned out, ....	6,694 68
Income from Brethren Publishing House, .....	5,957 80
Donated for Mission in Switzerland, ....	23 25
A personal account, .....	300 00
Chicago Dispensary, .....	105 76
Meeting House Bills Receivable, .....	922 09
Earnings of Bank Account, .....	229 29
Returned from Atlanta, Ga., .....	16 87
Rent from House in Mt. Morris, Illinois, ..	15 30
Transferred from Endowment Bills Receivable, .....	7 15
Transferred from Book and Tract Account, .....	84 70
Income from Hoover Property, Ohio, .....	15 20
Mission to Africa, .....	28 65
Mission to China, .....	32 00



Mission to Negroes, .....	\$ 40 00	
Miscellaneous, .....	66 08	
		<hr/>
Total Receipts for the year, .....		\$28,518 41
		<hr/>
		\$29,192 36

Expenditures:

Donations to build Meetinghouses:

Washington Congregation, Minn., .....	\$100 00	
Canton Congregation, Ill., .....	50 00	
Washington Congregation, D. C., .....	500 00	
Beach Grove Congregation, W. Va., ....	50 00	
Powell's Valley Congregation, Oregon, ....	50 00	
Saginaw Congregation, Texas, .....	150 00	
Rockton Congregation, Pennsylvania, ...	100 00	
		<hr/>
Total, .....		\$1,000 00

Loans to Build Meetinghouses:

Verdigris Congregation, Kansas, .....	\$200 00
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District Mission Work,

California, .....	\$400 00	
Northern Illinois, .....	400 00	
Middle Indiana, .....	150 00	
Northern Iowa, .....	175 00	
Middle Iowa, .....	350 00	
Northwestern Kansas, .....	200 00	
Northeastern Kansas, .....	525 00	
Southeastern Kansas, .....	150 00	
Eastern Maryland, including Wash., D. C., ....	1,500 00	
Southern Missouri, .....	100 00	
Oklahoma, .....	200 00	
Oregon, Idaho and Washington, .....	259 00	
Eastern Pennsylvania, .....	200 00	
Middle Pennsylvania, .....	400 00	
Southern Pennsylvania, .....	50 00	
First Virginia, .....	50 00	
Second Virginia, .....	175 00	
		<hr/>
Total, .....		\$5,284 00

Danish Mission, .....	1,028 17
Swedish Mission, .....	853 23
	<hr/>

Switzerland,

Part of last year's support, .....	\$475 00
Present year's support, .....	850 00
Rents, partly of last year, .....	160 00
Moving to Switzerland, .....	118 21
Helpers, Books, etc., .....	205 61
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Total, .....	\$1,808 82
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Chicago, Missionary's Support, .....	\$660 00
Chicago, Dispensary Expense, .....	18 85
Chicago, Children's Mission, .....	70 00



Chicago, Expenses of Elder of Church, .....	\$ 12 80	
Chicago, Stationery for Mission and Dispensary, ..	12 97	
Total, .....		\$ 774 62
Brooklyn, Support of Missionaries, .....	\$755 00	
Brooklyn, Furniture purchased, .....	30 00	
Brooklyn, Expense of series of meetings, .....	12 00	
Brooklyn, A Committee there several trips, .....	71 49	
Brooklyn, Stationery, .....	8 33	
Total, .....		\$ 876 82
Germantown, Support of Missionary, .....		532 53
Florida, Support of Missionary, .....		182 50
Arkansas, Support of Missionary,		
At Poplar Bluff, Mo., .....	\$313 99	
At Palestine, Arkansas, .....	346 60	
At Gainesville, Arkansas, .....	393 85	
At Knoxville, Ark., and other points in State ..	130 60	
Total, .....		\$1,185 04
Annual Meeting Committees,		
To Eastern Pennsylvania, .....	\$170 51	
To Western Pennsylvania, .....	152 34	
Sunday School Committee at A. M., .....	31 00	
Total, .....		\$ 353 85
Scandinavian Mission in America, .....		96 14
Traveling Secretaries, .....		1,157 83
Traveling Expenses of Committee to Three Meetings, .....		305 16
Annuities, .....		3,887 11
Secretary's Salary, .....	\$ 840 00	
Postage, .....	162 79	
Telegrams, .....	8 95	
Stationery, .....	103 38	
Hand Books Distributed, .....	119 37	
Office Fixtures, .....	8 22	
Annual Report Published, .....	27 55	
Endowment Expense, .....	68 16	
Legal Counsel, .....	25 00	
Auditing Committee of 1899, .....	46 58	
Sundry Expense, .....	18 26	
Tract Workers, .....	87 50	
Tract Examining Committee, .....	10 00	
Tract Publication and Distribution, .....	384 99	
Missionary Gospel Messengers to Congregations, .....	1,091 23	
Doctrinal Gospel Messengers, .....	142 50	
Missionary Gospel Messengers to District		
Boards, .....	251 80	
Rebate on Tract Endowment Interest, .....	578 86	
Total Expenditures, .....		\$23,500 96
Balance on hand, .....		\$ 5,691 40



Special Funds.  
Washington Meetinghouse Fund.

Receipts:

Cash on hand at beginning of year, .....	\$3,869 01
Donations, .....	\$4,166 39
Returned from Washington, .....	168 86
Total, .....	\$4,335 25
	<hr/>
	\$8,204 26

Expenditures:

On Building, .....	\$6,147 70
Labor, .....	3,277 92
Committee's Expenses, .....	219 11
	<hr/>
	\$9,644 73
Taxes, .....	54 85
Total, .....	\$9,699 58
Yet due on the House, .....	\$1,495 32

Asia Minor Fund.

Receipts:

Balance on hand at beginning of the year, .....	\$1,272 43
Donations for the Mission, .....	\$139 26
Donations for the Orphanage, .....	129 43
Total Receipts, .....	\$ 268 69
	<hr/>
	\$1,541 12

Expenditures:

Workers and Rents, .....	\$398 29
O. H. Yeremian in America, .....	70 00
Total Expenditures, .....	\$ 468 29
	<hr/>
Balance on hand, .....	\$1,072 83

India Fund.

Receipts:

Cash at beginning of year, .....	\$5,477 95
Donations to India Mission, ....	\$ 518 87
Interest on Loans, .....	262 53
Transferred from India Orphanage, .....	1,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,781 40
Donations for Orphanage, .....	1,261 73
Donations for India Home, .....	1,002 69
Donations for India Famine, .....	\$15,631 99
Total Receipts, .....	\$19,677 81
	<hr/>
	\$25,155 76



## Expenditures:

Mission Workers, .....	\$1,100 00	
Freight on Bertha Ryan's Trunk, .....	6 61	
Traveling Expenses, O. H. Yeremian to Indiana, .....	6 36	
		\$ 1,112 97
Orphanage, Expenses 1 year ago, .....	1,000 00	
Orphanage, Expense present year, .....	1,550 00	2,550 00
India Home, .....	2,000 00	
India Famine Fund, .....	15,631 99	
Total Expenditures, .....		\$21,294 96
Balance on hand, .....		\$ 3,860 80

## Gish Testament Fund.

## Receipts:

Cash on hand at beginning of year, .....	\$1,121 27
Receipts of Sales, .....	502 01
Total Receipts, .....	\$1,623 28

## Expenditures:

2,758 Testaments bound in different bindings, ..	\$838 90
3,000 four-page Circulars, .....	2 85
Total Expenditures, .....	\$841 75
Balance on hand, .....	\$781 53

## Interest-bearing Funds.

## Received:

Cash on hand at beginning of year, .....	\$ 2,859 55
Donations for Publishing House, .....	\$ 7,970 00
Interest on Denmark Poor Fund, .....	115 40
Receipts on Gish Estate, .....	5,297 96
Income from Gish Estate, .....	2,491 15
Bills Receivable, (Loans Paid), .....	32,056 36
World-Wide Endowment paid in, .....	22,158 00
Tract Endowment paid in, .....	1,090 00
Brethren Publishing House Reserve Fund, .....	2,000 00
Gospel Messenger Subscription Endowment, .....	450 00
Superannuated Ministers' Fund, .....	500 00
Total Receipts, .....	\$74,128 87
	\$76,988 42

## Paid Out:

Building the Publishing House, .....	\$17,721 85
Denmark Poor Fund, Eld. C. Hope's Family, .....	285 57
Gish Estate, paid the heirs as per will, .....	\$8,371 00
Other Expenses, .....	132 21
	\$ 8,503 21



Income Gish Estate,	
To Superannuated Ministers'	
Fund, .....	\$ 500 00
To Gish Publishing Fund, .	2,871 38
	\$ 3,371 38
Bills Receivable, Loans made, .....	39,712 15
Superannuated Fund, Eld. C. Hope's	
Family, .....	139 51
Total Payments, .....	\$69,733 67
	<hr/>
Balance on hand, .....	\$ 7,254 75

A General Summary of All Moneys Received and Paid Out.

Receipts:	
Cash on hand at beginning of the year, .....	\$ 15,323 76
World-Wide Fund, .....	\$28,518 41
Washington Meetinghouse Fund, .....	4,335 25
Asia Minor Funds, .....	268 69
India Funds, .....	19,677 81
Gish Testament Fund, .....	502 01
Interest-Bearing Funds, Loans Paid in, ..	74,128 87
Switzerland Meetinghouse Fund, .....	25 68
	<hr/>
Total Receipts for all Funds, .....	\$127,456 72
	<hr/>
	\$132,780 48

Expenditures:	
World-Wide Fund, .....	\$23,500 96
Washington Meetinghouse Fund, .....	9,699 58
Asia Minor Fund, .....	468 29
Book and Tract Fund, .....	49 60
India Funds, .....	21,294 96
Gish Testament Fund, .....	841 75
Interest-Bearing Funds, Loans Made, ....	69,733 67
	<hr/>
Total Expenditures of all funds, .....	\$125,588 81
	<hr/>
Cash on hand, .....	\$ 17,191 67

Statement of Funds

World-Wide Fund:	Resources:	Liabilities:
Hoover Estate, Virginia, .....	\$ 422 73	
Cassel Donations, .....	28 64	
Hoover Property, Ohio, .....	166 86	
Meetinghouse Bills Receivable, .....	4,949 82	
Chicago Home, .....		\$ 64 55
Mission to American Indians, .....		1 00
Mission to Africa, .....		41 65
Mission to China, .....		98 53
Mission to Negroes, .....		40 00
Mission to Cuba, .....		2 25
World-Wide Fund, .....		11,011 47
	(Cash \$5,691 40)	



## Special Funds:

Washington Meetinghouse Fund, .....	\$1,495 32	
Gish Testament Fund, .....		\$ 781 53
Asia Minor Funds, .....		1,072 83
India Mission Fund, .....		832 77
India Orphanage Fund, .....		2,669 51
India Building Fund, .....		358 52
Switzerland Meetinghouse Fund, .....		25 68
(Cash \$4,246 52)		

## Interest-Bearing Funds:

Real Estate, .....	\$ 6,921 50	
Bills Receivable, .....	153,510 22	
Donations for Brethren Publishing House, .....		\$ 9,986 14
India Mission, .....		3,500 00
India Endowment, .....		1,050 00
Denmark Poor Fund, .....		1,829 83
Gish Estate (not including Real Estate), .....		26,731 53
Income from Gish Estate, .....		122 33
Tract Endowment Paid in, .....		21,420 06
Reserve Fund of Publishing House, .....		18,000 00
Superannuated Ministers' Fund, .....		360 49
Gospel Messenger Subscription Endowment, .....		600 00
World-Wide Endowment Paid In, .....		84,086 09
(Cash \$7,254 75)		

Total Cash for all funds, .....\$ 17,191 67.

\$184,685 76      \$184,685 76

## Assets.

Cash on hand in the several Mission Funds, .....	\$ 9,936 92	
Interest-Bearing Funds, .....	167,686 47	
Brethren Publishing House, Building and Grounds, .....	73,721 85	
Value of Real Estate above Investment, .....	3,000 00	
Estimated Value of Gish Estate not included in "Interest-Bearing Funds," .....	23,500 00	
Total Assets, without Pledged Endowments, .....		\$277,845 24
Total Assets, without Pledged Endowments, March 31, 1899, .....		255,599 69
Increase, .....		\$ 22,245 55
Pledged Endowment, Interest and Non-Interest-Bearing, .....	\$204,149 00	
Assets as given above, .....	277,845 24	
Total, .....		\$481,994 24
Total March 31, 1899, .....		409,748 66
Increase, .....		\$ 72,245 55



THE BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE.

The past year, ending March 31, 1900, has had the usual mark of prosperity. Even with the extra expense attending the moving of the plant from Mt. Morris to Elgin, Illinois, which was done last September, the earning has been nearly the same as the preceding year.

The volume of business shows a decided increase, and yet it cannot be fairly represented inasmuch as the House handles all the books for the Gish Publishing Fund at a nominal cost for clerk hire, the real volume of which (in value at least \$6,000) does not appear anywhere in the business. Over \$35,000 of business was done on account, and the collection of these accounts has been very satisfactory. All the periodicals have a good circulation. At this time, June 1, the Gospel Messenger, in which special interest is centered, has a circulation of over 18,000. The Sunday-school periodicals have been in greater demand than heretofore, the Young Disciple reaching 17,000 and the Quarterlies about 48,000.

The salaries for the year were as follows:

One Editor of the Gospel Messenger, .....	Nothing
The other Editor of the Gospel Messenger, .....	\$500 00
The Office Editor of the Gospel Messenger, .....	840 00
The Editor of the Pilot, S. S. Periodicals, etc., .....	800 00
The Business Manager, .....	720 00

The foremen of the several departments are paid according to the grade of work and responsibility, and the workmen under them receive from \$10.00 per week to less amounts.

Beginning with the first of September the business of the House has been analyzed from a new standpoint, and the following statement of gross earnings and expenses should be considered first as representing the entire year, and yet only the last seven months under this classification. In this statement it may be seen that though the Gospel Messenger accounts show a large gross earning yet it is but little over one-half of the entire gross earning, and hence should be credited with but little over one-half of the net earning. It further proves that should the Messenger be changed to a dollar paper, as a few think it should be, with the present prices and rise in printing material, it would simply mean that the paper be published for less than cost and there would be a loss to the House, to the church, and to the mission work of the Brotherhood.



**Earnings and Expenses.**

Gross Earning from Merchandise account, ....	\$ 3,274 70
Gross Earning from Gospel Messenger account, .....	14,095 18
Gross Earning from Young Disciple and Children at Work Account, .....	2,597 69
Gross Earning from Quarterly account, .....	2,872 50
Gross Earning from Annual Meeting Report, ..	270 07
Subscription Book Department, .....	710 19
Advertisements, .....	248 61
Job Department, .....	288 59
Earnings on Reserve Fund and Special Incomes, .....	1,158 90

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\$25,516 43

Gross Expenses,—Office Fixtures, .....	\$ 33 55	
Depreciation in Machinery, .....	941 80	
Depreciation and loss in Type, .....	1,789 15	
Unclassified Expense, .....	2,554 39	
Printing and Paper for House, .....	350 85	
Loss account, .....	46 07	
Fuel, .....	456 13	
Light, .....	57 52	
Freight, .....	196 91	
Drayage, .....	54 55	
Express, .....	529 40	
Press Room Labor, .....	749 37	
Mailing Room Labor, .....	717 87	
Editorial, Salaries, .....	1,680 31	
Business, Salaries, .....	1,188 87	
Postage, for seven months, .....	2,414 76	
Electrotyping, .....	144 68	\$13,906 18
Net profit, .....		\$11,610 25

Of this net gain \$5,957.80 has been turned over to the Mission work of the church, \$2,000 is placed in the reserve fund and the balance, \$3,652.45, is left in the business for the present.

**The Financial Condition of the House on April 1, 1900.****Assets:**

Cash on hand, .....	\$ 2,312 27
Reserve Fund, .....	18,000 00
Office Fixtures, .....	301 92
Bills Receivable, .....	111 82
Machinery, .....	8,076 15
Type, Cases, etc., .....	7,556 59
Due on Ledger Accounts of 1896, .....	2,068 59
Due on Ledger Accounts of 1897, .....	46 69
Due on Ledger Accounts of 1898, .....	64 10
Due on Ledger Accounts of 1899, .....	5,043 89
Merchandise as per Inventory, .....	1,596 26
Expense Account as per Inventory, .....	60 57



Gospel Messenger as per Inventory, .....	\$ 1,070 80	
Quarterlies, as per Inventory, .....	434 10	
Sunday-school Papers as per Inventory, ..	227 25	
Pilot as per Inventory, .....	1,719 10	
Gospel Messenger Poor Fund, .....	51 94	
Subscription Book Department, .....	1,183 75	
Job Department, .....	68 80	
Personal Accounts, .....	52 33	\$50,046 92

## Liabilities:

Capital at beginning of the year which includes earnings of one year ago not taken out of the business, .....	\$30,409 69	
Unexpired Gospel Messenger Subscriptions, ..	12,850 22	
Unexpired Sunday-school Paper Subscriptions, .....	1,110 00	
Sundry Accounts, .....	24 56	
Earnings for the year, ....	\$11,610 25	
Paid to the Mission Board, \$ 5,957 80	5,652 45	\$50,046 92

During the past year a building was erected for the Publishing House on its lot in Elgin, that in every way meets the wants of a printing plant such as the church should own.

The lot itself, having 118 feet frontage on South State Street, the main street of West Elgin, is near the center of the city, and most conveniently located on two trunk line railroads, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, and the Chicago and Northwestern. A street car line passing the door of the House runs south connecting Elgin with the Illinois Central railroad at Coleman, the Great Western at St. Charles, and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy at Aurora, and furnishes every possible facility for good connections and easy access to all parts of the country west. One hour's ride places the traveler in Chicago most any hour of the day.

The building is constructed of brick and stone, three stories high and finished in yellow pine, plain. The entire investment of the printing plant is as follows:

The Publishing Business, .....	\$50,240 00
The Lot in Elgin, .....	6,000 00
The Building, .....	17,721 85
Total, .....	\$73,961 85
For this there has been donated, .....	\$83,947 99

The difference, \$9,986.14, is at present earning interest for the World-wide Mission Fund.

## Conclusion.

On the whole the year has been a most prosperous one in many ways. The growth of the funds, the enlarging of the fields,



the help to State Districts, the widespread sentiment of missions, all mean still greater good to be accomplished for the Master. And trusting in him who has blessed the work in the past, the Committee presses forward to accomplish all in its power.

D. L. Miller,  
L. W. Teeter,  
S. F. Sanger,  
A. B. Barnhart,  
John Zuck.

Committee.

#### **Auditing Committee's Report.**

To the Annual Meeting of 1900:

We, your Auditing Committee, appointed to examine the books of the General Missionary and Tract Committee and those under its control, beg to submit the following:

We footed all the items of the cash book of the Brethren Publishing House, checked the totals through posting into the ledger, footed the ledger, followed the balances into the balance sheet, examined carefully the statement of resources and liabilities as set forth in the report herewith presented to your body, and find the work correct in every particular, and the statement of resources and liabilities, including the gain mentioned, to be correct.

We compared the donations to the several mission funds published in the Gospel Messenger with the books of the Committee, proved all the pages of the cash book, checked the amounts through posting into the ledger, and found the same true and correct to the statement herewith submitted to you.

We carefully examined all the securities held by the Committee, and find them to be all right. In doing this work we spent five and one-half days, not that the books or accounts are complicated, but because \$146,359.41 worth of business in the Publishing House, and \$127,456.72 in the Missionary Books, examined in detail, required the time. We are glad to state we found the books correct.

Committee: Lewis R. Peifer, Aaron L. Clair, Mark D. Early.

Reports of the General Missionary and Tract Committee and Auditing Committee accepted and approved by the Annual Meeting.

#### **Committees Appointed.**

Committee on Credentials: D. B. Eby, P. R. Keltner, D. F. Hoover.



Committee on Resolutions: Abram Barnhart, I. B. Trout, John Zuck.

Sunday School Committee: S. H. Hertzler.

Tract Examining Committee: D. S. Filbrun.

Treasurer of Annual Meeting: Joseph Amick.

Missionary and Tract Committee: L. W. Teeter.

Messenger Advisory Committee: W. R. Deeter, S. Z. Sharp.

Auditing Committee: Mark D. Early.

School Visiting Committees: Huntingdon, Pa., Thomas B. Maddocks; Bridgewater, Va., S. A. Sanger; Mount Morris, Ill., Franklin Myers; McPherson, Kans., A. F. Miller, Uriah Shick; Lordsburg, Cal., S. G. Lehmer; North Manchester, Ind., G. L. Studebaker.

Committees to Churches:

First District of Virginia, St. Paul church: S. R. Zug, J. P. Zigler, A. B. Barnhart.

Deepwater church, Henry Co., Mo.: C. Holderman, J. D. Hildebrand, L. H. Eby.

Fredonia church, Kansas: Daniel Vaniman, Jacob Appleman, Jacob Witmore.

West Johnstown church, Pa.: S. F. Sanger, Levi A. Wenger, Samuel Sprankle.

Mercer church, Ohio: L. H. Dickey, W. K. Simmons, J. R. Spacht.

Yellow Creek church, Elkhart Co., Ind.: L. T. Holsinger, D. F. Hoover, L. W. Teeter.

Committee on Symposium: D. E. Price, I. B. Trout, H. C. Early.

Committee on Hymn Book Revision: D. L. Miller, L. T. Holsinger, H. B. Brumbaugh.

Committee on the "laying on of hands" on deacons and ministers: D. Vaniman, Geo. A. Shambarger, D. Hays, J. T. Meyers, Albert Hollinger.

Committee on Endowment Fund: W. R. Deeter, D. L. Miller, G. W. Lentz, J. H. Longanecker, Jas. A. Sell.

#### Calls for Annual Meeting.

(1) Eastern Pennsylvania. (2) Northwestern Ohio. (3) Southern Ohio. (4) Nebraska. (5) California. (6) Middle Missouri.

The next Annual Meeting will be held, the Lord willing, in Nebraska.



### Letters of Greeting.

Annual Meeting of 1900, held at North Manchester, Indiana, U. S. A., sendeth greeting to all our dear brethren and sisters in Denmark. We reciprocate your expression of brotherly love that came to us in your letter of greeting.

We are glad to learn that the churches in Denmark are in love and peace, and that you are working together in the order of the general Brotherhood. We commend you to God and the Word of his Grace, trusting that our heavenly Father will bless you in establishing Primitive Christianity in Europe, and that he will preserve you unto his everlasting kingdom.

D. L. Miller, Moderator,  
D. Hays, Writing Clerk.

Annual Meeting of 1900, held at North Manchester, Indiana, U. S. A., to the members of the German Baptist Brethren church in France and Switzerland, Greeting:—

We received your letter expressing your love and prayer for God's blessing upon our Conference and upon our Brethren in America. We appreciate this token of your Christian affection and your attachment to the church in her great work of establishing Primitive Christianity in the world. We commend you to the loving care of our heavenly Father, that he may guide you by his Holy Spirit into the obedience of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May peace and love be multiplied among you; and we trust, dear Brethren, that you will labor together with us to maintain the unity of the church in the faith of the Gospel, that you even as we walk by the same rule, mind the same thing, that there be no divisions, but with all lowliness and meekness, in brotherly love, grow in grace and the knowledge of the truth.

D. L. Miller, Moderator,  
D. Hays, Writing Clerk.

### Resolutions of Thanks.

Resolved, That we offer our sincere thanks

1. To our kind heavenly Father for all of the blessings of this Annual Meeting.
2. To the Middle District of Indiana for the ample arrangements for the meeting.
3. To the Committee of Arrangements and their several sub-committees for their untiring effort in providing for the comfort of those in attendance.
4. To the citizens of North Manchester and surrounding country for the warm and hearty reception given to our people.



5. To the various denominations of this city in opening their churches to our ministers.

6. To the several Railroad Companies for favors so courteously granted us.

7. To the civil authorities for the good order maintained in and around the grove during the meeting.

A. B. Barnhart,  
John Zuck,  
I. Bennett Trout.

#### Standing Committee for 1900.

1. Tennessee, North Carolina and Florida,.....Jos. B. Bowman
2. First District of Virginia, .....P. S. Miller, W. H. Naff
3. Second District of Virginia, .....Daniel Hays
4. First District of West Virginia, .....Jeremiah Thomas
5. Second District of West Virginia, .....
6. Eastern Maryland, .....Albert Hollinger
7. Middle Maryland, .....W. S. Reichard
8. Western Maryland, .....S. K. Fike
9. Eastern Pennsylvania, .....John Herr
10. Southern Pennsylvania, .....Wm. C. Koontz
11. Middle Pennsylvania, .....H. B. Brumbaugh
12. Western Pennsylvania, .....Jasper Barnthouse
13. Southern Ohio, .....John C. Bright
14. Northeastern Ohio, .....Noah Longanecker
15. Northwestern Ohio, .....C. L. Wilkins
16. Southern Indiana, .....L. W. Teeter
17. Middle Indiana, .....J. H. Wright
18. Northern Indiana, .....J. C. Murray
19. Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, ..D. E. Price, C. P. Rowland
20. Southern Illinois, .....John Arnold
21. Southern Missouri, .....Samuel Weimer
22. Middle Missouri, .....G. W. Lentz
23. Northern Missouri, .....S. B. Shirky
24. First District of Arkansas and Southeastern Missouri, .....  
.....J. H. Neher
25. Southern Iowa, .....John P. Bailey
26. Middle Iowa, .....S. M. Goughnour
27. Northern Iowa, Southern Minnesota and South Dakota, .....  
.....Harvey Eikenberry
28. North Dakota and Northern Minnesota, .....Joseph Myer
29. Michigan, .....I. F. Rairigh
30. Nebraska, .....A. D. Sollenberger



31. Northeastern Kansas, .....R. A. Yoder
32. Southeastern Kansas, .....E. M. Wolfe
33. Northwestern Kansas and Northern Colorado, Lewis E. Keltner
34. Southwestern Kansas, Southern Colorado and Oklahoma,.....  
.....A. F. Miller
35. Texas and Southwestern Louisiana,.....J. F. Neher
36. Oklahoma and Indian Territory, .....J. Appleman
37. California and Arizona, .....P. S. Myers
38. Oregon, Washington and Idaho, .....Geo. C. Carl
39. Denmark, .....D. L. Miller
40. Sweden .....S. R. Zug
41. First District of Asia Minor, .....  
D. L. Miller, Moderator; L. W. Teeter, Reading Clerk; D. Hays, Writing Clerk; H. B. Brumbaugh, Assistant Writing Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1901.

Lincoln, Nebr.

The Meeting was organized by electing Eld. Daniel Vaniman Moderator; Eld. Henry C. Early, Reading Clerk; Eld. I. Bennett Trout, Writing Clerk; Eld. I. J. Rosenberger, Assistant Clerk; S. P. Van Dyke, Doorkeeper.

The General Conference was opened at 8 A. M., Tuesday, May 28, 1901.

### Change in Rules Governing Annual Meeting.

1. Rule number ten (10) was struck out.
2. Rule number eleven (11) was changed so as to read as follows: Motions or amendments or substitutes to the answers in papers that are presented to Annual Meeting shall not be entertained by the Moderator until the one presenting the paper has opportunity to be heard, and the meeting has an opportunity to discuss the merits of the paper; then, if there is not a union of sentiment in the meeting, the Moderator may entertain amendments to the answers.

### Unfinished Business.

1. Report of Committee on Mortgages and Endowments:  
To the Annual Meeting of 1901 Greeting:—The Committee to which was referred the subjoined queries by the Conference of 1900 respectfully submit the following report:

(3) We the Conestoga church, Lancaster County, Pa., ask



Annual Meeting, to devise a better plan for the use of the money in the endowment and other funds than the present mortgage one, so that money may be loaned or donated to build meetinghouses in cities and such other places as they are needed and the churches are not able to build themselves, the General Missionary Committee holding the title until otherwise arranged.

(10) Will not District Meeting petition Annual Meeting to decide that no endowment funds belonging to the Brotherhood shall be loaned on mortgages in the future.

(11) We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting, to prohibit the General Missionary and Tract Committee from soliciting or receiving endowment funds. See Matt. 6: 19, 20, 34. But this shall not be construed as to prohibit any person from giving any amount they may feel to donate.

Your Committee held a meeting at Elgin, Illinois, where every opportunity was afforded to make a careful and thorough examination of the present plan of investing and caring for the funds of the church. It was found that the very best that can be done was being done by the General Missionary Committee with the funds intrusted to its care. However, we recommend that the General Missionary and Tract Committee be authorized to investigate the advantages of purchasing farms as an investment, and if they find it practicable to so invest such sums as may seem advisable to them. Many of our brethren looking for money to invest very much prefer to pay interest to the church. It is found that the endowment fund cannot be diverted from the purpose for which it was given by the donors. It was found that every possible care is used in investing the funds. The Secretary and Treasurer is under adequate bonds, and vouchers are kept to show where the money goes. Every penny donated is expended in the most careful manner. The General Committee give their time free. Your Committee feel that it is due to say that the course pursued in the care of the funds in their charge is worthy of high commendation. It is the opinion of your Committee that no funds are more carefully guarded and more sacredly held than are the funds of the church placed in the hands of the General Missionary and Tract Committee.

We recommend that no hindrances should be thrown in the way of securing funds for the mission work of the church and that our members be encouraged to give as the Lord has prospered them. In presenting the duty of giving to the members of the church, solicitors should always give each one the right to choose this method, and in making endowments, as much as possible, the



right of the General Conference to use the fund when thought best to do so, be reserved.

Report accepted.

2. The Mingo church asks Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to recommend that the deacons and all our ministers be separated for the work whereunto they have been called or chosen by the laying on of hands in accordance with Acts 6: 6 and Acts 13: 2, 3. Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Decided that this question be submitted to a committee of five, to report to next Annual Meeting, viz., D. Vaniman, Geo. A. Shambarger, D. Hays, J. T. Meyers, Albert Hollinger.

Answer: We consider Art. 27 of Annual Meeting Minutes, of 1850, page 66, "Revised Minutes," a sufficient answer to this query.

3. Query from the Missionary and Tract Committee.—What should be the metes and bounds of symposium discussions in the Gospel Messenger?

Answer: We recommend that a committee of three brethren be appointed to take this matter under consideration and report to next Annual Meeting. Passed. Committee: D. E. Price, I. B. Trout, H. C. Early.

Answer as Amended by Annual Meeting: We make no decision regarding symposiums; but we are in favor of full and fair investigation of all scriptural subjects, subject, however, to editorial discretion.

#### Queries.

1. We ask Annual Meeting to reconsider the time of holding Annual Meeting and decide hereafter to begin Annual Meeting each year on the second Tuesday in June. Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Put in the hands of the following committee to report at Annual Meeting, 1902: D. F. Hoover, D. L. Miller and D. Hays.

2. Rock Grove church, Iowa, requests, through District Meeting, that Annual Meeting make it the duty of Standing Committee to suggest to the delegates the names of three suitable brethren to be voted for as Gospel Messenger Advisory Committee. Request granted and passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Decided that Standing Committee nominate, and the Annual Meeting confirm, the members of the Gospel Messenger Advisory Committee.

3. (a) We petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting,



to decide whether the word fornication in Matt. 5: 32 and 19: 9, and Annual Meeting Minutes, Art. 2, 1898, p. 106, applies alike to sin committed by married and unmarried persons. Passed to Annual Meeting.

(b) Annual Meeting is asked to reconsider the divorce question of 1898, and so decide that none who have two living companions shall be received into the church while living with the second or last companion as husband and wife. Request granted and sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Put in the hands of the following committee to report to next Annual Meeting: D. C. Flory, H. B. Brumbaugh, I. J. Rosenberger, M. J. McClure, A. C. Wieand.

4. (a) Annual Meeting is requested to appoint a committee of five well-informed brethren carefully to investigate the advisability of a beneficiary association in the church, so that we may more fully carry out the spirit of the Gospel, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6: 2), said committee to report to Annual Meeting of 1902.

Answer: This request is granted and the committee is instructed fully to investigate subject of life insurance.

(b) Inasmuch as the question of life insurance has been before our Annual Meeting a number of times and decided against, and no scripture reference or reasons given for not allowing the same, the Lima church asks District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting to reconsider this question and give the privilege of life insurance, or else give scriptural reasons and references why not. Passed to the Annual Meeting.

Answer: Put into the hands of the following committee to report to next Annual Meeting: D. L. Miller, L. H. Dickey, C. Fitz, John Heckman, H. C. Early.

5. To the District Meeting of Northern Illinois, Greeting:

The Committee appointed by last District Meeting to investigate the advisability of establishing a Brethren hospital in the city of Chicago respectfully submit the following report:

After a careful consideration of the question and of existing conditions we recommend that a Brethren hospital be established in the city of Chicago, and that the trustees be authorized to incorporate under the laws of the State of Illinois.

We further recommend that the sum of fifty thousand dollars be raised for the purchase of ground, and the erection and furnishing of suitable buildings; that an endowment fund be secured for the maintenance and support of the hospital, and that four solicitors be appointed to raise the necessary funds.



We suggest the advisability of enlisting the aid of the entire Brotherhood in this very important enterprise, and ask District Meeting to submit the question of establishing a hospital in the city of Chicago to our next Conference and ask for coöperation and help in the work. D. L. Miller, H. P. Albaugh, Grant Mahan.

This report was accepted by the District Meeting, including the request to have the question submitted to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Passed by Annual Meeting.

6. Will District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to change Art. 1. Minutes of 1848, page 36, "Revised Minutes of Annual Meeting," as follows: "Considered that it is not proper to invite into our council meetings any person who is not a member of the church, but if any such attend they should not be excluded"?

Sent to Annual Meeting with the following answer by District Meeting: It is not always best to invite those who are not members to attend our council meetings, but if they attend we need not exclude them, unless the church convened thinks best to do so.

Answer: Passed by Annual Meeting.

7. Inasmuch as the design of our General Conference is to cultivate the spiritual and exercise the devotional in our people, along with the transaction of such business as is presented; and inasmuch as divine wisdom and grace are especially needed for the guidance of deliberative bodies whose function is to make the decisions and shape the policy of a great Brotherhood; in order that prudent counsel may be given and that the turbulent feelings sometimes arising through the heat of debate may be subdued by a more frequent appeal to the Master of assemblies, therefore,

Resolved that the Huntingdon church, through the coming District Meeting of Middle Pennsylvania, ask the General Annual Conference to adopt measures so that the morning and afternoon sessions of the Conference shall both open and close with appropriate devotional services, of which prayer shall constitute a part and that the same be recommended to the various Districts in all their council, ministerial, and Sunday-school meetings.

Answer: Request granted.

8. Marsh Creek church asks District Meeting to ask Annual Meeting: Inasmuch as Annual Meeting has declared from time to time that members should hold their membership where they reside, and whereas some congregations do not regard these decisions of Annual Meeting, by not giving certificates to members moving out from their church, what shall be done with such congregations



for withholding their certificates? What course should be taken in such cases?

Answer of District Meeting: Members living close to the line may, by mutual consent of both congregations concerned, hold their membership in the other congregation, where they do not reside; but in all other cases members are required to hold membership, where they reside, and elders shall see that all removing members have their certificates as recommended by Annual Meeting. And elders who do not regard this decision of Annual Meeting fall into the council of the church, and the elders of the District in which they reside shall take the case in hands.

Answer: Passed by Annual Meeting.

9. The Home Mission Board of Eastern Pennsylvania asks District Meeting to ask Annual Meeting to regard Montreal, Canada, as a foreign mission point, under the care of the General Missionary Committee, similar to that of Western Canada. See page 111, Art. 7, "Revised Minutes of Annual Meeting."

Answer by District Meeting: We so petition.

Answer: Petition granted.

10. We ask Annual Meeting to recommend and secure a uniform way in conducting our meetings as regards the reading of the Scriptures, the use of the Hymn Book and the use of the Lord's Prayer. See 1 Cor. 1: 10; Phil. 3: 16. Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: We do not think it expedient to fix any definite rule as to the manner of conducting our religious services, but urge the elders and ministers not to neglect the reading of the Scriptures in the churches, and advise that the hymn and song books published by the Brethren be used wherever it is practicable, and that the use of the Lord's Prayer be maintained, but not to that extent that it must be used every time prayer is offered.

### Reports of Treasurer of Annual Meeting.

For Year Ending April 1, 1900.

Balance of cash April 1, 1899, .....	\$492 23
March 30, 1900, proceeds of sales of Annual Meeting	
Minutes, .....	250 10
Total cash received, .....	\$742 33

#### Committee Sent to Bridgewater College:

J. P. Zigler, .....	\$ 2 75	
S. A. Sanger, .....	1 50	
H. G. Miller, .....	2 25	\$ 6 50

#### Committee Sent to North Manchester College:

A. H. Puterbaugh, .....	\$ 7 50	
J. H. Wright, .....	4 00	11 50



## Committee Sent to Juniata College:

E. Book, .....	\$ 9 00	
Thos. Maddock, .....	6 80	
Jas. A. Sell, .....	9 00	\$24 80

## Committee to Mount Morris College:

Franklin Myers, .....	\$ 8 00	
David Rowland, .....	5 50	
P. R. Keltner, .....	11 81	25 37

## Committee to McPherson College:

William Johnson, .....	\$ 4 23	
Thos. G. Winey, .....	4 60	
Michael Keller, .....	1 50	10 33

## Paid to:

John Bonewitz, railroad fare from Oregon,	66 85	
G. N. Falkenstein, expense of incorporating to hold Germantown church property,	25 00	
J. G. Royer, for securing A. M., rates,....	4 48	
L. W. Teeter, expenses on church corpora- tion business, .....	85	
L. T. Holsinger, trip to Elgin, .....	7 00	

## Committee on Historical Association:

Daniel Vaniman, .....	\$ 8 00	
James A. Sell, .....	16 00	
M. J. McClure, .....	49 19	73 19

Exchange on draft, .....	15	
L. J. Hooke, Annual Meeting Secretary, ..	27 75	\$283 71

Balance of cash on hand, April 1, 1900, ..... \$458 62

Examined and approved by the Auditing Committee, 1900.

Committee: Lewis R. Peifer, Aaron L. Clair, Mark D. Early.

For Year Ending April 1, 1901.

Balance of cash April 1, 1900, .....	\$458 62
July 2, 1900, cash refunded by Geo. C. Carl, .....	6 40
March 30, 1901, proceeds of sales of A. M. Minutes, .....	141 07

Total cash received, ..... \$606 09

## June 8, 1900, Committee to McPherson College:

Thos. G. Winey, .....	\$ 6 65	
Michael Keller, .....	3 00	\$ 9 65

## Committee to Bridgewater College:

S. A. Sanger, .....		
H. G. Miller, .....		
H. C. Early, .....		13 50



## Committee to Mount Morris College:

David Rowland, .....	\$10 00	
Franklin Myers, .....	5 00	
P. R. Keltner, .....	11 85	\$26 83

## Committee to Juniata College:

Jas. A. Sell, .....	\$ 6 00	
Thos. B. Maddock, .....	9 05	
W. S. Long, .....	4 60	19 65

## Committee to North Manchester College:

J. H. Wright, .....	\$ 3 00	
A. H. Puterbaugh, .....	10 50	
Geo. L. Studebaker, .....	15 45	28 95

To L. W. Teeter, Trustee, expense, ... 3 00

To Geo. C. Carl, delegate from Oregon, ... 59 85

To David Hollinger, telegrams Standing  
Committee, ..... 1 75

For stamps, ..... 10

Oct. 31, 1900, L. J. Hooke, Annual Meeting  
Secretary, ..... 140 00

Exchange for draft, ..... 10

March 4, 1901, Endowment Fund Committee  
from Annual Meeting:

W. R. Deeter, .....	\$ 6 00		
J. H. Longanecker, .....	36 00		
G. W. Lentz, .....	15 35		
Jas. A. Sell, .....	21 30	78 65	385 83

Balance of cash on hand April 1, 1901, ..... \$220 26

Examined and approved by Auditing Committee, 1901.

Committee: Lewis R. Peifer, Aaron L. Clair, R. C. Hollinger.

**Miscellaneous.**

1. Report of General Missionary and Tract Committee.—  
Moved that this report be printed and distributed on the Annual  
Meeting grounds, and that the public reading of the report be  
limited to world-wide mission work.

Passed.

2. The General Missionary and Tract Committee recommends  
that the blank form of delegate's credentials, as provided for by  
Art. 10, 1898, page 170, "Revised Minutes," be discontinued.

Answer: Request granted.

3. The General Missionary and Tract Committee respectfully  
asks that Art. 10, 1892, page 113, "Revised Minutes," be so amend-  
ed as to give the Committee authority to send an elder and wife  
to other foreign fields besides Denmark.

Answer: Request granted.



4. Through the Standing Committee, by recommendation of the General Missionary and Tract Committee, Brother Albert W. Vaniman and Sister Alice Vaniman, his wife, were recommended as suitable persons to be sent as missionaries to the foreign fields.

Confirmed by Annual Meeting.

#### Committees Appointed.

On Credentials: Jacob Witmore, D. E. Price, Geo. W. Lentz.

On Resolutions: D. L. Miller, J. H. Moore, L. W. Teeter.

Sunday School Advisory Committee: C. E. Arnold, 3 years, Levi Minnich, 1 year to fill vacancy caused by resignation of I. B. Trout.

Tract Examining Committee: I. J. Rosenberger.

General Missionary and Tract Committee: A. B. Barnhart, H. C. Early.

Messenger Advisory Committee: D. Hays, 3 years, Edward Frantz, 2 years, to fill vacancy caused by resignation of S. Z. Sharp.

Auditing Committee: L. R. Peifer, 3 years, R. C. Hollinger, 2 years, to fill unexpired term of M. D. Early.

School Visiting Committees: Huntingdon, Pa., Jas. A. Sell; Bridgewater, Va., H. G. Miller; Mt. Morris, Ill., David Rowland; McPherson, Kans., Michael Keller; North Manchester, Ind., A. H. Puterbaugh.

Annual Meeting Treasurer: Joseph Amick.

#### Committees to Churches:

Loraine church, Ill.: D. C. Campbell, P. R. Keltner, D. F. Hoover.

Cherry Grove church, Md.: D. B. Arnold, W. A. Gaunt, John N. Davis.

West Dayton, Ohio: L. H. Dickey, Geo. L. Studebaker, Tobias Hoover.

Manor church, Md.: John P. Zigler, H. G. Miller, Joseph M. Kagey.

Yellow Creek church, Pa.: Jos. Holsopple, Jacob Holsopple, Geo. S. Arnold.

Smith Fork and Kidder churches, Mo.: L. T. Holsinger, L. W. Teeter, S. F. Sanger, P. R. Keltner, D. F. Hoover.

#### Special Committees:

To Western Pennsylvania and First District of West Virginia: L. A. Wenger, Sam'l Sprankel, S. F. Sanger.

To Eastern Pennsylvania: W. R. Deeter, L. H. Dickey, D. Hays.



To Cerrogoro church, Ill.: D. F. Hoover, John Zuck, W. R. Harshbarger.

**Calls for Annual Meeting.**

Northwestern Ohio. Eastern Pennsylvania.—Call granted.

**Letters of Greeting.**

**I. From India.**

Bulsar, India, April 2, 1901.

To the Brethren and Sisters assembled in Annual Meeting of 1901 at Lincoln, Nebr., Greeting:—Peace and love and union be yours. The church of India in council assembled, seeing the mercies and blessings of our Heavenly Father, rejoices with due thankfulness. We also thank the dear brethren and sisters of America for their continued and unselfish interest in the work, shown in so many ways. We acknowledge your prayers and thank you for the help you have given us in sending three new workers. There has been much sickness, but the Lord has kindly spared all the European workers, and only a few native Christian have died. The work has been pushed out and a goodly number have been baptized. We are grateful for the past, happy in the present, and hopeful for the future, and send our warmest fraternal greeting to you all. We shall remember you in the Annual Meeting, and need not ask you to remember us, for we know when you are together in the Spirit you will pray for us. God bless and guide us all! Many salaams. Your brethren and sisters in India.

Adam Ebey, Sec'y.

**Reply.**

Annual Meeting of 1901, assembled at Lincoln, Nebr., U. S. A., to the Churches of India, Greeting: Dear Brethren and Sisters—Your kind letter of greeting was read and appreciated. We rejoice that the churches of India are enjoying such prosperity under so much adversity. We assure you that we appreciate your expressions of concern and prayer for the success of the present Conference. And we hereby heartily reciprocate the same desire and interest in behalf of the churches in India. May God our Father richly bless you still, is our united prayer. Amen.

Daniel Vaniman, Moderator; I. Bennett Trout, Clerk.

**II. From Switzerland and France.**

Geneva, Switzerland, April 18, 1901.

To Annual Meeting of the German Baptist Brethren Church:  
The members of the Brethren church in France and Switzerland,



through their delegates in District Meeting assembled, send to our beloved Fraternity in America hearty Christian greetings. They renew their thanks for the establishment of primitive Christianity in their respective fatherland; for the erection of a first Brethren meetinghouse in Switzerland, and for the tangible marks of interest and sympathy shown them since the founding of the missions in these two sister republics. They pray God to bless you in all your deliberations, and to grant you an abundant measure of his Holy Spirit as the interests of the kingdom of God will be the sole object of your gathering and brotherly fellowship.

(Signed.) G. J. Fercken, Elder; A. Eichenberg, Minister; C. Taval, Minister.

Reply.

Annual Meeting of 1901, assembled at Lincoln, Nebr., U. S. A., to the Churches of France and Switzerland, Greeting: Dear Brethren and Sisters—Your letter of greeting was read to this Conference, and heard with much interest. Your expressions of thanks and concern for the success of this Conference were heartily received. And we hereby reciprocate the same degree of concern for the prosperity and extension of the churches in France and Switzerland, and pray God's blessings upon you. Amen.

Daniel Vaniman, Moderator, I. Bennett Trout, Clerk.

III. From Sweden.

Wanneberga, Sweden, Jan. 1, 1901.

To the Annual Meeting of the Brethren in America, from the District Meeting in Sweden: We have no questions this year from our District Meeting to send to the Annual Meeting, but all our churches in Sweden unite in sending much love and warm greeting to the whole Brotherhood in America, giving our hearty thanks for all their assistance, help and sympathy received from them till this day. We hope and trust that our dear brethren and sisters in America will prove the mission work in Sweden by sending some good and faithful brother to us as far as possible. We hope and pray that our Lord Jesus Christ will bless the work done as well as the work still in time to come. May a rich blessing from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all is our united prayer. Signed in behalf of all the brethren and sisters in Sweden as a District by A. T. Olin, Secretary, Elder A. Anderson, Elder P. Johnson.

Reply.

Annual Meeting of 1901, assembled at Lincoln, Nebr., U. S. A.,



to the Members of the German Baptist Brethren Church in Sweden, Greeting: Dear Brethren—Your kind letter of love, and expressions of interest and concern for this Conference was read and listened to with great attention, and we hereby return to you our regards, sympathy and love, and pray our Father in heaven that grace, peace and union may still attend you, and that the Holy Spirit may guide you until the close of your earthly pilgrimage. Amen.

Daniel Vaniman, Moderator; I. Bennett Trout, Clerk.

#### IV. From Denmark.

To the Annual Meeting of the Brethren Churches in America of 1901, from the District Meeting held in Hordum, Denmark, Sept. 9, 1900, Greeting: We, the Brethren churches in Denmark, have no chosen delegate to represent us at the Annual Meeting this year, because our beloved brethren of America whom our District selected cannot serve on the Standing Committee as they were on last year. We unite in sending this letter, by which we wish to be represented by having it read to the Annual Meeting by the Reading Clerk. We are glad to say we are united in love and peace by Christ. As a District of the Brethren in Denmark, we are trying to be active, according to the Brethren's order, to have the true Gospel preached to sinners for their salvation; and the church members built up. We all give our hearty thanks to all our beloved brethren and sisters in the whole Brotherhood in America, for all their help and sympathy, both temporal and spiritual, received up to this day. We commend ourselves to our Lord and also to our beloved Brethren in America, hoping to have their sympathy still in time to come, that we may have the noble work of the Lord forwarded as believed and practiced by the Brethren, until Christ come. May the best blessings from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all in this Conference and the whole Brotherhood, is our prayer. Amen. In behalf of the Brethren churches in Denmark as a District. Signed by Elders.

C. Hansen, Secretary.

#### Reply.

Annual Meeting of 1901, held at the City of Lincoln, Nebr., U. S. A., to the Members of the German Baptist Brethren Church in Denmark, Greeting: Dear Brethren and Sisters—Your kind letter of love, prayer and good wishes in behalf of the present Conference was received and read, as you requested. We are very glad indeed to know that the churches in Denmark are still in love and union with the Brotherhood in America, and we hereby commend you to God, and the Word of his grace, and pray that the



rich blessings of the Father in heaven may attend you constantly, and that the Holy Spirit may guide and comfort you, until we meet in the great eternal gathering. Amen.

Daniel Vaniman, Moderator; I. Bennett Trout, Clerk.

**Annual Report of the General Missionary and Tract Committee of  
the German Baptist Brethren Church, for the Year  
Ending March 31, 1901.**

To the Annual Conference of the German Baptist Brethren Church,  
Assembled at Lincoln, Nebraska, May 28, 1901.

Your committee submits the following partial report of its work which it has been enabled by the grace of God to do within the year designated:

**India.**

For some reason not yet clear, no report has been received from the organizations at Bulsar, and at Jalapur. They perhaps have been sent and lost en route. However, the Gospel Messenger has reported a number of baptisms throughout the year at these places. About five hundred orphans have been received from time to time in the orphanages at Bulsar, Jalapur and Anklesvar. The year has been mainly spent in caring for the orphans and distributing the famine funds sent over by the church in America.

Brother S. N. McCann sends this report for Anklesvar where he and his wife have been located since November 15, 1898:

"The famine began to be felt the following December after we moved and in January we commenced to care for some orphans. The year was largely given to famine work. We have at present five out-stations, where regular work is done. Fifteen have been baptized during the year, eight of whom are our boys in the orphanage. In all there are twenty-one members at this place. We have sold about 500 gospels, exact record not kept. The field is large and much work is required."

The total of the famine fund sent to India by the church within the last two years amounts to \$26,058.11. This has all been placed in the hands of the workers over there and they have labored hard to make good use of it, as intended by the donors.

**Asia Minor.**

No missionary from America has labored in this field during the year. Money to pay the rent for a meeting place has been appropriated and a number remain faithful to their baptismal vows. D. Chirighotis has general oversight of the missions and does the correspondence with the Committee.



Switzerland.

Within the year a neat and convenient meetinghouse has been built at Geneva, the ground and house costing in all \$2,650.00. There are eighteen members at Geneva. Near Oyannax, France, fourteen members, in all thirty-two. Brother Fercken and his co-laborers are untiring in their efforts to establish the faith in these two countries. Recently Sister Fercken and their two children came to America where they are now visiting her parents living not far from New York City.

Denmark and Sweden.

The following table sets forth clearly the conditions of the churches in this territory as well as the work done during the year:

CONGREGATIONS.		Elders.	Ministers.	Deacons.	Members.	Meetings.	Love Feasts.	Baptized.	Restored.	Disowned.
Denmark—Vensyssel, .....		3	2	3	53	390	3	1		1
Thy, .....		1	1	2	26	120	2			4
Total, .....		4	3	5	79	510	5	1		5
Swden—Kjefflinge, .....		1	2	1	16	75	2			
Malmo, .....		1		2	23	76	1			
Linhamn, .....			1	1	24	70	2		2	
Wannaberga, .....		1	1		27	152	4		1	
Total, .....		3	4	4	90	373	9		3	

Brother H. O. Wejler of Stockholm has been laboring earnestly during the year. He has distributed a large number of tracts and made many visits from house to house. Ten members and one in the ministry, one Sunday school in Lulea with thirty in attendance he reports for Norrland, Malmberget.



United States.

Mission Points.	Sermons.	Prayer Meetings Attended.	Sunday Schools Attended.	Pastoral Visits.	Funerals.	Average Congregations.	Av. Attendance at Prayer Meeting.	Av. Attendance at Sunday School.	Council Meetings.	Love Feasts.	Received by Letter.	Received by Baptism.	Moved Away.	Disowned.
Chicago, . . . . .	126	45	52		1	44	15	117	4	4	14	4	14	1
Brooklyn, N. Y., . . . .	69	52	53	531	5	44	27	94	8	1	4	2		
Germantown, Pa.,* . . .	62	25	30		7	21	9	37	3	1	2	2		
Poplar Bluff, Mo., . . .	211			205	6				12	8	1	20		4
Palestine, Ark., . . . .	167	40	43	140		54	14	34	19	5	4	5		4
Gainesville, Ark., . . .	141	12	20	134	2	39	29	31	7	5	2	6		
Florida †, . . . . .	21		7	14		34		18	1					
Montreal, Canada ‡, . .	38	20	24			20	9	31						
Seven Springs, N. C.§	8			12		51					2			
Totals, . . . . .	843	194	229	1036	21	307	103	362	54	24	29	39	14	9

\*Seven Months. †Three months reported. ‡Five months. §One month.  
Within the year Bro. J. N. Overhultz has been placed in charge of Florida field; Bro. Charles Hilary at Montreal, Canada; and Bro. N. N. Garst at Seven Springs, N. C.

Tract Distribution.

During the year 1,185,850 pages of tracts were sent out from the office.

Summary.

Number of State Districts assisted, . . . . .13  
Number of donations to build meetinghouses, . . . . .16  
Number of loans to build meetinghouses, . . . . .10  
Received by baptism (India and Switzerland not reported), . . . . .40

FINANCIAL.  
World-Wide Fund.

Receipts:  
Cash on hand at beginning of the year, . . . . . \$ 5,691 40  
Donations from congregations and individuals, including interest on endowment contracts, as reported under World-Wide Fund in Gospel Messenger, . . . . . \$13,944 99  
Income from Endowment loaned out, . . . . 6,407 71  
Income from Brethren Pub. House, . . . . 2,000 00  
Chicago Dispensary, . . . . . 213 55  
Earnings of bank account, . . . . . 424 60  
Rent of house in Mt. Morris, Illinois, . . . . 19 50  
Donated for mission in Switzerland, . . . . 3 53



Donated for meetinghouse in Switzerland, \$	1,098 30
Donated for mission in China, .....	128 62
Donated for mission to Negroes, .....	85 00
Donated for mission in Porto Rico, .....	55 29
Meetinghouse bills receivable, .....	399 29

Total Receipts, ..... \$24,780 38

\$30,471 78

#### Expenditures:

##### Donations to build meetinghouses:

California, Los Angeles congregation, .....	\$ 100 00	
Colorado, Villa Park congregation, .....	150 00	
Illinois, Elgin congregation, .....	500 00	
Kansas, Labette congregation, ....	100 00	
Santa Fe congregation, ...	100 00	
Missouri, Spring Run congregation, .....	75 00	
Nebraska, Highland congregation, .....	200 00	
Lincoln congregation, .....	200 00	
Wood River congregation, .....	150 00	
North Dakota, Salem congregation, .....	200 00	
Oklahoma Mt. Hope congregation, ..	100 00	
Mound Valley congregation, .....	50 00	
Oregon, Nampa congregation, .....	100 00	
Virginia, Berkley congregation, ....	50 00	
Washington, Sunnyside congregation, .....	200 00	
Switzerland, Europe, Geneva congregation, ..	2,650 00	\$4,925 00

##### Loans to Build Meetinghouses:

Colorado, Villa Park congregation, \$	150 00	
Illinois, Elgin congregation, .....	500 00	
Kansas, Labette congregation, .....	200 00	
North Dakota, Cando congregation, .....	300 00	
Nebraska, Wood River congregation, .....	150 00	
Oklahoma, Mt. Hope congregation, .....	100 00	
Mound Valley congregation, .....	100 00	
Pennsylvania, Rockton congregation, .....	100 00	
Texas, Saginaw congregation, ....	150 00	
Virginia, Mt. Tanner congregation, .....	100 00	\$1,850 00

##### District Mission Work:

California, .....	\$ 400 00
Northern Indiana, .....	100 00
Northwestern Kansas, .....	400 00
Northeastern Kansas, .....	300 00
Southeastern Kansas, .....	150 00
Eastern Maryland, .....	1,092 00
Middle Missouri, .....	100 00
North Dakota, .....	150 00



Oklahoma, .....	\$ 400 00	
Oregon, .....	1,100 00	
Eastern Pennsylvania, .....	200 00	
Texas, .....	200 00	
Second Virginia, .....	50 00	\$4,642 00
<hr/>		
Danish Mission in Europe, .....		\$1,283 90
Swedish Mission in Europe, .....		921 21
Switzerland Mission,		
Elder G. J. Fercken's support (part for last year), .....	\$1,008 00	
Sister Fercken and children to America, .....	195 00	
Helpers, rents and tracts, .....	261 42	\$1,464 42
Asia Minor,		
Hall rent, one year, .....	\$ 54 00	
O. H. Yeremian in medical college, .....	365 14	\$ 419 14
<hr/>		
Chicago,		
W. R. Miller's support, .....	\$ 660 00	
Children's mission, part support, ...	235 00	
Dispensary, .....	139 03	
Expenses of Elder, .....	21 45	
Stationery, .....	8 31	
Expense of purchasing property, ..	77 32	\$1,141 11
<hr/>		
Brooklyn,		
Support of J. Edson Ulrey and wife and Sister Grater, and rents, .....	\$1,065 00	
Drayage for Sister Boone, .....	5 50	
Stationery, .....	5 10	
A. B. Barnhart to visit mission, ..	9 80	
Italian Mission, rent of hall, .....	30 00	\$1,115 40
<hr/>		
Germantown, Pa.,		
G. N. Falkenstein and others, ....		\$ 316 81
Florida,		
D. E. Stover, .....	\$ 13 00	
A. Hutchison, .....	69 50	
J. N. Overhultz, .....	4 88	\$ 87 38
<hr/>		
Arkansas,		
Ira P. Eby, Poplar Bluff, Mo., ....	\$ 318 34	
J. H. Neher, Palestine, Ark., .....	430 31	
B. E. Kesler, Gainesville, .....	304 07	
Henry Brubaker, .....	16 50	\$1,069 22
<hr/>		



Utah,			
D. S. Filbrun and family, moving and other expenses, .....	\$ 400 00		
Account the mission, .....	200 00	\$ 600 00	
<hr/>			
North Carolina Mission,			
H. C. Early, several trips, .....	\$ 55 50		
J. M. Cline, one trip, .....	28 75		
N. N. Garst, moving and other expenses, .....	90 00		
N. N. Garst, support, .....	16 25	\$ 190 50	
<hr/>			
Canada,			
H. E. Light, Pennsylvania, .....	\$ 40 78		
Chas, Hilary, moving, .....	92 41		
Support of Bro. Hilary and wife, ..	137 56	\$ 270 75	
<hr/>			
Annual Meeting Committees,			
Auditing Committee, .....	\$ 61 35		
Sunday School Committee, .....	5 50		
Western Pa. Committee, .....	69 83	\$ 136 68	
<hr/>			
Traveling Secretaries,			
H. C. Early, Virginia, .....	\$ 118 30		
I. D. Parker, Indiana, .....	160 73	\$ 279 03	
<hr/>			
Traveling expenses of General Missionary and			
Tract Committee to three meetings, .....		\$ 200 47	
Annuities, .....		4,530 77	
Final expense on Hoover property, Ohio, .....		63 12	
Missionary Gospel Messengers through			
District Mission Boards, .....	\$ 658 96		
Through Gospel Messenger agents, ..	767 00	1,425 96	
<hr/>			
Tracts published, .....	\$ 291 86		
Rebate on books, .....	587 85		
Postage, .....	152 30		
Stationery, .....	28 40		
Galen B. Royer, Secretary and Treasurer, .....	840 00		
General and endowment expense, .....	28 24		
Premium on \$20,000 guarantee bond for treasurer, ..	80 00		
<hr/>			
Total Expenditures, .....		\$28,942 52	
<hr/>			
Cash Balance on hand, .....		\$ 1,529 26	
<hr/>			
SPECIAL FUNDS.			
Washington Meetinghouse.			
Indebtedness at beginning of the year, .....	\$1,495 32		
Taxes, .....	4 98	\$1,500 30	
<hr/>			
Donations during the year, .....		788 66	
<hr/>			
Yet due on the House, .....		\$ 711 64	



**Gish Testament Fund.**

Balance on hand, .....	\$ 781 50	
Receipt of sales, .....	300 57	\$1,082 07
<hr/>		
3,000 Testaments printed and 1,000 bound, .....		190 00
<hr/>		
Balance on hand, .....	\$ 892 07	

**INDIA FUNDS.****Receipts:**

Balance on hand, .....		\$ 3,860 80
Donations for missions, .....	\$ 1,084 54	
Donations for orphanage, .....	2,172 95	
Donations for famine, .....	10,426 12	
Interest on loans, .....	259 35	
Transferred from loan fund, .....	1,000 00	\$14,942 96
<hr/>		
Balance on hand, .....		\$18,803 76

**Expenditures:**

Support of workers, .....	\$ 2,087 50	
Traveling expenses for 3; America to India, .....	757 35	
Bertha Ryan among churches in America, .....	18 15	
Pump for orphanage, .....	6 50	
Famine fund, .....	10,426 12	
India building fund, .....	358 52	\$13,654 14
<hr/>		
Balance on hand, .....		\$ 5,149 62

**Interest-bearing Funds.****Receipts:**

Cash on hand at beginning of year, .....		\$ 7,254 75
Sale of Hoover property, Dayton, Ohio, .....	\$ 2,500 00	
Publishing House fund, .....	75 45	
Denmark Poor fund, income, .....	104 25	
Gish estate converted in cash, and loaned, .....	6,320 50	
Income from Gish estate, .....	3,841 83	
Bills receivable, loans paid out, .....	45,727 75	
Paid in tract endowment, .....	715 62	
Paid in world-wide endowment, .....	37,040 00	
Gospel Messenger endowment, .....	375 00	
Reserve fund, Brethren Publishing House, .....	2,000 00	\$98,700 40
<hr/>		
Total, .....		\$105,955 15

**Expenditures:**

Purchase and repair of Chicago property, .....	\$ 3,696 29
Addition to Brethren Pub. House building, .....	848 94
India mission fund, transferred, .....	1,000 00
Settlement of claims in Gish estate, .....	433 34
Gish publishing fund, .....	4,750 73



Bills receivable, loans made, .....	\$88,650 00	
Superannuated ministers' fund, .....	160 00	\$99,539 30
		<hr/>
Balance on hand, .....		\$ 6,415 85

A General Summary of All Moneys Received and Paid Out.

Receipts:

Cash on hand at beginning of year, .....	\$17,191 67
World-wide fund, .....	\$24,780 38
Washington meetinghouse, .....	788 66
Gish Testament fund, .....	300 57
India funds, .....	14,942 96
Interest bearing funds, .....	98,700 40
<hr/>	
Total money received in the year, .....	\$139,512 97
<hr/>	
Balance on hand, .....	\$156,704 64

Paid Out:

World-wide, .....	\$28,942 52	
Washington meetinghouse, .....	4 98	
Gish Testament fund, .....	190 00	
India funds, .....	13,654 14	
Interest-bearing funds, .....	99,539 30	
Switzerland meetinghouse, .....	25 68	\$142,356 62
<hr/>		
Total of cash on hand, .....		\$ 14,348 02

Statement of Funds.

World-Wide Fund:

L. F.		
136 Hoover estate, Virginia, .....	\$ 422 73	
Cassel donations, .....	28 64	
Chicago home, .....		\$ 64 55
142 Africa, .....		41 65
China, .....		227 15
Negro mission, .....		125 00
178 Meetinghouse bills receivable, .....	\$ 6,400 53	
179 Porto Rico mission, .....		57 54
256 World-wide fund, .....		7,865 27
(Cash \$1,529 26)		

Special Funds:

L. F.		
129 Washington meetinghouse, .....	\$ 711 64	
151 Gish Testament fund, .....		\$ 892 10
155 Asia Minor orphanage, .....		1,072 83
159 India orphanage, .....		4,842 46
(Cash \$6,095 75)		

India Mission:

161 India mission, .....	\$ 307 16
(Cash \$307 16)	

Interest-Bearing Funds:

180 Real estate, .....	\$8,117 79
181 Donation for Publishing House building fund, .....	\$ 9,212 65



	India mission funds, .....	\$ 2,500 00	
182	India endowment, .....	1050 00	
	Denmark poor fund, .....	1,934 08	
	Reserve fund of Brethren Publishing House, .....	20,000 00	
183	Gish estate, .....	32,618 69	
184	Income from Gish estate, .....	\$ 786 57	
187	Bills receivable, .....	196,432 47	
190	Tract endowment, .....	22,135 08	
193	World-wide endowment, .....	121,126 09	
198	Superannuated ministers' fund, .....	200 49	
199	Gospel Messenger endowment, .....	975 00	
	(Cash \$6,415 85)		
	Total of all cash, .....	14,348 02	
		\$277,248 39	\$227,248 39

### Assets.

Cash on hand in several funds, .....	\$ 8,932 17
Interest-bearing funds, .....	205,336 83
Brethren Publishing House building and grounds, .....	74,570 79
Value of real estate above investment, ..	3,000 00
Estimated value of Gish estate, not included in interest-bearing funds, ...	17,750 00
Total assets March 31, 1901, .....	\$309,589 79
Total assets March 31, 1900, .....	277,845 24
Increase, .....	\$ 31,744 55
There are no liabilities against the above assets.	
Pledged endowment, interest and non-interest bearing, March 31, 1901, ....	\$248,855 00
Pledged endowment, interest and non-interest bearing, March 31, 1900, ....	204,149 00
Increase, .....	\$ 44,706 00

### BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE.

A financial statement of the House shows the following:

#### Resources:

Cash on hand, .....	\$ 4,560 53
Reserve fund on interest, .....	20,000 00
Office fixtures, .....	523 90
Bills receivable, .....	206 82
Machinery, .....	11,478 45
Type, cases and sundry outfit, .....	5,966 00
Uncollected ledger accounts before 1897, ..	1,756 93
Uncollected ledger accounts from 1897 to 1899, .....	93 08
Accounts receivable, .....	6,016 97
Expense (stationery, etc., on hand), .....	511 44
Merchandise (stock on hand), .....	3,567 45
Gospel Messenger (stock on hand), .....	1,981 37



Sunday-school papers (stock on hand), ....	\$	831	47	
Quarterlies (stock on hand), .....		870	04	
The Inglenook account, .....		3,584	72	
Subscription book department, .....		1,111	55	
Job department (stock on hand), .....		168	84	
Special accounts, .....		818	17	
The Kline book, .....		542	25	\$64,589 98

**Liabilities:**

Unexpired Gospel Messenger subscriptions, \$13,453 79				
Unexpired Sunday-school paper subscrip- tions, .....		686	66	
Unexpired Inglenook subscriptions, .....		2,671	78	
"History of the Brethren" account, .....		392	63	
Gospel Messenger poor fund, .....		315	22	
Earnings for the year, .....\$13,007 76				
Paid Gospel Mes- senger and Tract Committee, ... 2,000 00	\$11,007 76			
Capital at beginning of year, 36,062 14				
New capital for 1901, .....	\$47,069 90			\$64,589 98

The question naturally arises, Why leave so much of the earnings in the business this year? It has been found that with our new and greater facilities, more machinery could be used to an advantage, and stock can be bought and carried with profit. The following items, given in round numbers, taken by comparing the resources of this year with the resources of last year, show in the main where the earnings are:

Reserve fund, .....	\$2,000 00
Machinery, .....	3,100 00
Merchandise and raw material, .....	3,900 00
Increase in cash, .....	2,000 00
Total, .....	\$11,000 00

On April 1, 1901, the Gospel Messenger passed the long-desired circulation mark of 20,000 subscriptions; the Inglenook has about 4,500; and the Quarterlies have had a fair increase. The year, as seen in the results, has been a most satisfactory one for the house.

**Conclusion.**

The committee praises the Lord for what has been done and hopes that increased interest and progress may be manifest on every hand in trying to carry out the Master's command, "Go ye into all the world."

Committee: D. L. Miller, Illinois; John Zuck, Iowa; L. W.



Teeter, Indiana; A. B. Barnhart, Maryland; S. F. Sanger, Indiana.

#### Auditing Committee's Report.

To the Annual Meeting of 1901:

We, your Auditing Committee, appointed to examine the books of the General Missionary and Tract Committee, including those of the Brethren Publishing House, beg to submit the following:

We footed all the items of the cash book of the Brethren Publishing House, checked the totals through posting into the ledger, followed the balances into the balance sheet, examined carefully the statement of resources and liabilities as set forth in the report herewith presented to your body, and find the work correct in every particular, and the statement of resources and liabilities, including the net gain mentioned, to be correct.

We compared the donations to the several mission funds published in the Gospel Messenger with the books of the committee, proved all the pages of the cash book, checked the amounts into the ledger, and through to the financial statement herewith submitted to you, and found the same true and correct.

We examined with more than usual care all the securities held by the committee, and find them to be all right. Vouchers were presented for every expenditure with the exception of a few minor items where the House had sent postage and asked for a receipt, but received none.

In doing this work we spent seven days, not that the books or accounts are complicated, but because the volume of business required the time. We are glad to state we found the books correct.

Committee: Lewis R. Peifer, Aaron L. Clair, Reuben C. Hollinger.

#### Resolutions of Thanks.

Resolved, That we offer our sincere thanks:

1. To God, our heavenly Father, for his fulness of blessings upon us during this Conference.
2. To the District of Nebraska, for the location of the Conference at this place.
3. To the Committee of Arrangements with their several subcommittees, for their untiring efforts in providing for our comfort.
4. To the citizens of the city of Lincoln and vicinity for



their ready reception and hearty welcome, of us, into their midst, during this Conference.

5. To the several denominations of the city of Lincoln in opening their houses of worship to our ministers.

6. To the several railroad companies for their favors and courtesies toward us.

7. To the civil authorities for the maintenance of the good order in the meeting grounds during the entire Conference.

Committee: D. L. Miller, J. H. Moore, L. W. Teeter.

#### Standing Committee for 1901.

1. First District of India, .....By letter
2. First District of Switzerland and France, .....By letter
3. First District of Asia Minor, .....
4. Sweden, .....Daniel Vaniman
5. Denmark, .....By letter
6. Oregon, Washington and Idaho, .....Thomas Barklow
7. California and Arizona, .....Stephen Yoder
8. Oklahoma and Indian Territory, .....N. S. Gripe
9. Texas and Southwestern Louisiana, .....J. A. Miller
10. Southwestern Kansas, Southern Colorado and Northwestern Oklahoma Territory, .....John Wise
11. Northwestern Kansas and Northern Colorado, ....G. M. Throne
12. Southeastern Kansas, .....John Sherfey
13. Northeastern Kansas, .....I. L. Hoover
14. Nebraska, .....C. Fitz
15. Michigan, .....John M. Lair
16. North Dakota and Northern Minnesota, .....J. A. Weaver
17. Northern Iowa, Southern Minnesota and South Dakota, .....S. M. Miller
18. Middle Iowa, .....John Zuck
19. Southern Iowa, .....J. M. Follis
20. First District of Arkansas and Southeast Missouri, .....B. E. Kesler
21. Northern Missouri, .....J. E. Shambarger
22. Middle Missouri, .....D. M. Mohler
23. Southern Missouri and Northwestern Arkansas, ....J. P. Harris
24. Southern Illinois, .....J. H. Baker
25. Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, ..I. B. Trout, John Heckman
26. Northern Indiana, .....I. L. Berkey
27. Middle Indiana, .....Dorsey Hodgden
28. Southern Indiana, .....D. F. Hoover
29. Northwestern Ohio, .....L. H. Dickey



30. Northeastern Ohio, .....Tobias Hoover
  31. Southern Ohio, .....I. J. Rosenberger
  32. Western Pennsylvania, .....C. G. Lint
  33. Middle Pennsylvania, .....W. J. Swigart
  34. Southern Pennsylvania, .....Jos. A. Long
  35. Eastern Pennsylvania, .....J. Y. King
  36. Western Maryland, .....By letter
  37. Middle Maryland, .....David Ausherman
  38. Eastern Maryland, .....Uriah Bixler
  39. Second District of West Virginia, .....
  40. First District of West Virginia, .....Geo. S. Arnold
  41. Second District of Virginia, .....H. G. Miller, H. C. Early
  42. First District of Virginia, .....G. W. Hutchinson
  43. Tennessee, North Carolina and Florida, .....M. Nead
- Daniel Vaniman, Moderator; Henry C. Early, Reading Clerk;  
I. Bennett Trout, Writing Clerk; I. J. Rosenberger, Assistant Writing Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1902.

Harrisburg, Pa.

The Meeting was organized by electing Eld. Daniel L. Miller, Moderator; Eld. L. T. Holsinger, Reading Clerk; Elders L. H. Eby and Wilbur B. Stover, Writing Clerk and William Overholtzer, Doorkeeper.

The General Conference was opened at 8 A. M., Tuesday, May 20, 1902.

### Unfinished Business.

1. Report of Committee on changing time of holding Annual Meeting:

We ask Annual Meeting to reconsider the time of holding Annual Meeting and decide hereafter to begin Annual Meeting each year on the second Tuesday in June.

Answer: We recommend that no change be made from the regular time of Pentecost in holding Annual Meeting; but when in the judgment of the Brethren holding Annual Meeting the Brotherhood can better be served at a later date, another time, not later than the first Tuesday in June, may be selected.

2. (a) We petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to decide whether the word fornication in Matt. 5: 32 and 19: 9, and Annual Meeting Minutes, Art. 2, 1898, p. 106, applies alike to sin committed by married and unmarried persons.

(b) Annual Meeting is asked to reconsider the divorce question



of 1898, and so decide that none who have two living companions shall be received into the church while living with the second or last companion as husband and wife.

Answer: To the first query, Yes! To the second query, We decide not best to reconsider the article referred to.

3. (a) Annual Meeting is requested to appoint a committee of five well-informed brethren carefully to investigate the advisability of a beneficiary association in the church, so that we may more fully carry out the spirit of the Gospel, "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6: 2), said committee to report to Annual Meeting of 1902.

Answer: This request is granted and the committee is instructed fully to investigate the entire subject of life insurance.

(b) Inasmuch as the question of life insurance has been before our Annual Meeting a number of times and decided against, and no scripture reference or reasons given for not allowing the same, the Lima church asks District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting to reconsider this question and give the privilege of life insurance, or else give scriptural reasons and references why not.

Report of Committee on Life Insurance:

To the Annual Meeting held at Harrisburg, Pa., May 20-24, 1902, Greetings: Your Committee, after a careful and painstaking investigation of the entire subject of Beneficiary, Mutual and Regular Life Insurance, respectfully submit the following report on the queries referred to it by Annual Meeting of 1901, which reads as follows:

"1. Annual Meeting is requested to appoint a Committee of five well-informed brethren carefully to investigate the advisability of a beneficiary association in the church, so that we may more fully carry out the spirit of the Gospel, 'Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ' (Gal. 6: 2), said committee to report to Annual Meeting of 1902.

"Answer: This request is granted and the committee is instructed fully to investigate the entire subject of life insurance.

"2. Inasmuch as the question of life insurance has been before our Annual Meeting a number of times and decided against, and no scripture reference or reason given for not allowing the same, the Lima church asks District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting to reconsider this question and give the privilege of life insurance, or else give scriptural reasons and references why not."

Report of Committee:



1. A Beneficiary Association conducted by the church would involve intricate business problems and financial responsibilities which it would be unwise for the church to assume. We therefore report against such organization in the church.

2. Our members should not unite with any Secret Beneficiary Society, or Secret Mutual Life Insurance Association. In uniting with such organizations they are led into alliance with secret societies, which are contrary to the teaching of the Scriptures. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." 2 Cor. 6: 14.

3. There are some forms of investment in Life Insurance Companies that do not seem to us to be wrong, either from a moral or scriptural standpoint. Among these may be named, Annuities, Endowments, and Employees' Accident Insurance, and while we do not encourage investments in Insurance Companies we do not find scriptural authority to make them a test of church fellowship.

D. L. Miller,  
L. H. Dickey,  
John Heckman  
C. Fritz,  
H. C. Early.

Answer: In view of the importance of this subject, we recommend that this report be spread on the Minutes for one year for general study before final action is taken.

#### Queries.

1. Whereas, the Annual Meeting in the past years has in many instances called upon the same brethren, from year to year, to serve on committees, even placing some on two and three different committees in the same year, and as it is believed by some that it would be better if the same brethren were not called upon to serve on committees so often, now therefore will this District Meeting ask the Annual Meeting not to call upon the same brethren to serve on committees so often, when it is possible to avoid it, and especially not to serve on more than one committee the same year?

The intention of this query is to apply more especially to committees appointed to churches to settle difficulties and on deferred queries or questions (by deferred queries or questions are meant such as are placed in the hands of committees to answer and report to next Annual Meeting).

Answer: It is recommended that changes be made in the appointment of committees as often as expedient.

2. (a) We petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting,



to decide that all State Districts are entitled to one delegate on Standing Committee of Annual Meeting and that such Districts as have thirty-five hundred members or more are entitled to two delegates on said Committee.

(b) Will not this District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to reconsider resolution of 1889 ("Revised Minutes," page 13), referring to representation by proxy, and provide that all foreign Districts shall be represented by a member or members of their own Districts, or by letter through Secretary of the General Mission Board?

(c) We ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to reconsider resolution of Annual Meeting of 1889 referring to representation by proxy ("Revised Minutes," page 13), and change them so as not to allow any one to serve as a member of Standing Committee who does not have his membership in the District from which he is sent, but give District Meetings in foreign countries the privilege of selecting suitable persons outside of the District to present and explain to Annual Meeting such papers as they may decide to send.

(d) We, the members of the Highland church, petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to reconsider minute of 1889, page 13, of "Revised Minutes," and amend so as not to permit any State District to be represented on the Standing Committee by proxy.

(e) Whereas under the present ruling some State Districts are entitled to more than one delegate on Standing Committee while others are not; we therefore ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to reconsider and so amend her ruling that no State District be entitled to more than one delegate on Standing Committee.

Answer: The foregoing queries, referring to District representation were placed in the hands of the following named brethren with instructions to report to Annual Meeting of 1903: S. S. Ulery, T. C. Denton, D. B. Eby, L. W. Teeter, and J. C. Bright.

3. Since Art. 30 of 1877 decides that those who were baptized in the pool were baptized with a valid baptism, and since growing circumstances seem to demand it, as held by a number of congregations which have placed pools in their churches we, the Washington City church, petition Annual Meeting, through the District Meeting of Eastern Maryland, to grant the privilege of placing pools in churches where it is necessary.

Answer: When absolutely necessary we consider that a bap-



tistry may be placed in a meetinghouse; though we always prefer that baptism be performed in a running stream.

4. The Quemahoning church in regular council assembled ask Annual Meeting, through District Meeting of Western Pennsylvania, to revise Art. 3, Minutes of 1848, so as to permit asking the three questions, that are asked the applicant for baptism in the water, at the conclusion of the reading of the Scriptures and the other questions asked; then have prayer at the water side and in the water after kneeling say, "Upon thy confession of faith, which thou hast made before God and witnesses, thou shalt, for the remission of sins, be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Answer: Deferred one year.

5. (a) We, the members of the George's Creek congregation, petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to drop the appellation German Baptist and Dunker or Tunker and retain the old name Brethren. We ask this because of the dissatisfaction in missionary work in having a national qualification in the name German Baptist and the derisive use of the names Dunkard, Dunker and Tunker.

(b) We, the Nocona church, Texas, ask Annual Conference, through our District Conference, that the name Dunker or Dunkard be prohibited from being published by the Brethren Publishing House, as such names are misleading, and misrepresented by dictionaries and commentaries, and are detrimental to the mission work of the Brethren church.

Answer: Referred to the following Committee with instructions to report to Annual Meeting of 1903: Elders L. W. Teeter, J. H. Moore, L. T. Holsinger.

6. Inasmuch as there is a lack of unity in the young people's work in the Brotherhood, we, the members of the Young People's Christian Association of the Monticello church, petition said church to consider, discuss and revise, if necessary, the plan adopted by said association and to petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to adopt said plan as revised and amended. Outline of plan: That a committee of five be appointed at each Annual Meeting, whose duty it shall be to arrange, systematically, topical outlines for the coming year and said outlines shall be published by the Brethren Publishing House.

Amendment: Whereas the young people of the Monticello church have petitioned the church to petition Annual Meeting,



through District Meeting, for a systematic plan of Bible study, and whereas the Monticello church has ordered their petition forwarded to District Meeting, therefore, be it resolved that we, the Monticello church, supplement their petition to the extent that the outline of Bible study be published quarterly in booklet form.

Answer: Referred to the following committee with instructions to report to Annual Meeting of 1903: I. B. Trout, E. S. Young, Edward Frantz.

7. We, the Manchester church, ask District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting to authorize our mute minister, Bro. J. J. Cross, to fill all calls for mute preaching, approved by the General Missionary Committee. Expenses to be paid out of the world-wide mission fund.

Answer: Referred to the General Missionary and Tract Committee and those State Districts where work is to be done.

8. We, the Bethel church, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting, to say whether District Meetings in selecting committees to adjust difficulties, are restricted to their own District.

Answer: We consider it advisable that District Meetings restrict their selection of Committees to the elders of the District when possible.

9. Inasmuch as many of the churches place on the Lord's table beer bottles containing the communion wine which we think savors of the appearance of evil, therefore the Kansas City church petitions Annual Meeting through District Meeting, to advise that all churches use pitchers or other appropriate vessels.

Answer: We certainly think the teaching of 1 Thess. 5: 22 and 1 Cor. 10: 32 would be specially applicable in cases such as the one here referred to.

10. Inasmuch as clergy permits are issued to those engaged in the occupation of farming, and not to those in any other occupation, we, the Mission Board of California and Arizona, petition District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting to petition the passenger associations to also issue clergy permits to ministers of the German Baptist Brethren church, engaged as mechanics and day laborers.

Answer: Referred to the Committee on Railway Transportation.

11. We, the Brethren churches in Denmark, ask the General Conference in America this year to petition the King of Denmark to grant some favors to those who are conscientiously opposed to



war, by which they be not compelled to leave the country or go to prison for their belief.

Answer: Request granted, and referred to the General Missionary and Tract Committee.

12. When any man, having two or more wives, or any woman having two or more husbands, wishes to forsake heathenism and become a Christian, earnestly desires baptism and church fellowship, and promises faithfully to act according to the direction of the church, what shall be done?

Answer: Inasmuch as the customs of child marriage and of plurality of wives are very common in India, we prefer not to answer this question ourselves, but ask Annual Meeting to advise us in the light of the circumstances and according to the Word of God.

Answer: Upon condition of the faithful promises to act according to the teachings of the church and the Word of God, we cannot forbid baptism.

**A Brief Report of the General Missionary and Tract Committee  
Made to the Annual Meeting of 1902, Held at Paxtang  
Park, Harrisburg, Pa., May 20, 21, 1902.**

The Committee is pleased to make the following brief report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1902, and in doing so it wishes to acknowledge to the Father in heaven its debt of gratitude for all that has been accomplished within the time of this report.

Let it be understood from the start that this report, in accordance with the action of Conference one year ago, is brief, but the Committee has caused to be printed and has for free distribution at its office a complete report. It is hoped that many receiving this report will be interested in asking for the larger one.

The fields abroad have been blessed in spiritual ways. The famine has added to the work in India, but even this sad experience again in the life of the work there will bring forth its own harvest of good in due time. The close of the year found 177 members in India, 41 in Switzerland and France, 77 in Denmark and 105 in Sweden, making a total membership in all these fields of 398.

The work has been carried forward with renewed vigor in the various points of the United States where the Committee held missions one year ago. Brooklyn is now in charge of Bro. J. Kurtz Miller, and Bro. C. H. Hilary has been moved to Hespeler, Canada. The missions at Montreal and in Utah have been closed.

Tract distribution has been carried on with the same vigor, and some 1,071,708 pages were sent out within the year.



A general summary of the work shows that seventeen State Districts have been helped with their District work, twelve meeting-houses have received donations, and on four houses loans have been made. Two hundred and forty-five members were received by baptism in all fields.

Financial.—World-Wide Fund.

Receipts:

Cash balance on hand, .....	\$1,529 26	
Less certain amounts in last year's report, .....	515 89	\$1,013 37
		<hr/>
Total receipts during the year, .....		\$30,735 81
		<hr/>
		\$31,749 18

Expenditures:

District work, .....	\$4,762 66	
Donations to build meetinghouses, .....	3,265 00	
Loans on meetinghouses, .....	550 00	
Denmark missions, .....	1,066 71	
Sweden mission, .....	2,168 63	
Switzerland and France, .....	2,044 21	
Montreal mission, .....	495 83	
Utah mission, .....	1,466 07	
Arkansas mission, .....	1,309 60	
North Carolina mission, .....	526 03	
Florida mission, .....	113 02	
Chicago mission, .....	992 19	
Brooklyn mission, .....	1,445 15	
Annual Meeting Committees, .....	395 39	
Traveling Secretaries, .....	200 19	
Annuities, .....	7,035 95	
Other items, .....	4,954 39	
		<hr/>
Total expenditures, .....		\$32,791 02
		<hr/>
Overdrawn, .....		\$ 1,041 84

Special Funds Show the Following Balances of Cash on Hands:

Gish Testament fund, .....	\$ 592 10
Asia Minor fund, .....	481 31
India Fund, .....	4,794 13
Gish Publishing fund, .....	933 57
Superannuated ministers' fund, .....	1,195 76
Miscellaneous funds, .....	886 67

A Few General Statements:

During the year the Committee received in all funds, cash, \$167,960.22 and appropriated in regular form \$175,717.39. The total assets of the Committee March 31, 1902, are, exclusive of pledged endowments, \$353,158.36, being an increase within the year of \$43,568.57. The Brethren Publishing House made a net



earning of \$12,497.82, of which \$4,000 was used for missionary purposes. In the five years the church has owned this property a little over \$25,000 has been paid of the earnings into the mission fund, besides a reserve fund being created and now amounting to \$23,000, so that in the short time the House has paid for itself and has besides over \$50,000 as resource to carry forward its own work. The business of the past year has greatly increased over any preceding year.

The Auditing Committee audited the books of both the House and Committee more carefully than heretofore, and attached their report to the complete report. This is but a brief extract, and their report is meant to cover this as well. Persons desiring the complete report of the Committee's work can have it free by addressing the General Missionary and Tract Committee, Elgin, Ill.

Committee, D. L. Miller, A. B. Barnhart, John Zuck, L. W. Teeter, H. C. Early.

#### Report of Auditing Committee.

To the Annual Meeting of 1902:

We, your Auditing Committee, appointed to examine the books of the General Missionary and Tract Committee, including those of the Brethren Publishing House, beg to submit the following:

We footed all the items of the cash book of the Brethren Publishing House, checked the totals through posting into the ledger, followed the balances into the balance sheet, examined carefully the statement of resources and liabilities as set forth in the report herewith presented, and find the work correct in every particular, and the statement of resources and liabilities, including the net gain mentioned therein, to be correct.

We compared the donations to the several mission funds published in the Gospel Messenger with the books of the Committee, proved all the pages of the cash book, checked the amount into the ledger and through the financial statement, and found the same true and correct.

We have examined with more than usual care all the securities held by the Committee, and find them to be all right. Vouchers were produced for every expenditure. We are glad to state we found the books correct.

Signed, Aaron L. Clair, Reuben C. Hollinger, Lewis R. Peifer.

Report of Joseph Amick, Treasurer of Annual Meeting, for Year Ending April 1, 1902.

He charges himself as follows:



To balance April 1st, 1901, .....	\$220 26
March 20, 1902, proceeds of sales of Annual Meeting Minutes, ..	171 95
	<hr/>
	\$392 21

He asks credit as follows:

May 27, 1901, cash to Thos. Barklow, fare to Annual Meeting, delegate from Oregon,	\$45 75	
May 27, 1901, Committee to McPherson College, Kans.:		
M. Keller, .....	\$ 6 80	
A. F. Miller, .....	5 25	12 05
	<hr/>	
May 27, 1901, Committee to Mt. Morris College, Ill.:		
P. R. Keltner, .....	\$11 80	
Frank Myers, .....	8 00	
David Rowland, .....	9 00	28 80
	<hr/>	
May 28, 1901, Committee to North Manchester College, Ind.:		
J. H. Wright, .....	\$ 3 00	
G. L. Studebaker, .....	13 50	
A. H. Puterbaugh, .....	7 50	24 00
	<hr/>	
May 28, 1901, Committee to Bridgewater College, Va.:		
H. C. Early, .....		
S. A. Sanger, .....		
H. B. Miller, for whole Committee, .....		9 00
May 28, 1901, Committee to St. Paul church, Va.:		
A. B. Barnhart, .....	\$23 55	
S. R. Zug, .....	27 75	
J. P. Zigler, .....	12 00	63 30
	<hr/>	
July 22, 1901, Committee to Huntingdon College, Pa.:		
Thos. B. Maddocks, .....	\$ 5 67	
James A. Sell, .....	3 00	
W. S. Long, .....	12 32	20 99
	<hr/>	
Exchange and postage, .....		22
	<hr/>	
		204 00

To balance on hand April 1, 1902, .....	\$188 10
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Examined and approved by the Auditing Committee for 1902.

Aaron L. Clair, Reuben C. Hollinger, Lewis R. Peifer.

**Committee to Eastern Pennsylvania.**—Report accepted and committee continued.

**Committee to Western Pennsylvania.**—Report accepted and committee continued.

#### Committees Appointed.

On credentials: Solomon Bucklew, Jesse Stutzman, C. D. Hylton.



On resolutions: I. J. Rosenberger, I. D. Parker, J. G. Royer.  
 Sunday School Advisory Committee: Levi Minnich.

Tract Examining Committee: L. W. Teeter.

Treasurer of Annual Meeting: Joseph Amick.

General Missionary and Tract Committee: D. L. Miller, John Zuck.

Messenger Advisory Committee: W. R. Deeter.

Auditing Committee: A. L. Clair.

School Visiting Committees: Huntingdon, Pa., C. L. Buck; Bridgewater, Va., H. C. Early, Peter Garber; Mt. Morris, Ill., C. C. Price; McPherson, Kans., Uriah Shick; North Manchester, Ind., J. H. Wright.

Railway Transportation Committee, following names added: Southeastern Passenger Association, P. S. Miller; Central Passenger Association, Isaac Frantz.

Missionaries to India: Gertrude Rowland, Daniel J. Lichty, Jesse Emmert.

Committees to Churches:

Fruitdale, Ala.: J. H. Neher, S. J. Bowman, C. H. Diehl.

Summitville, Ind.: I. D. Parker, D. Snell, D. F. Hoover.

Committee to Loraine, Ill., continued.

Committee to Smith Fork and Kidder, Mo., continued.

Committee to West Dayton, Ohio, continued.

Committee to Cerrogrado, Ill., continued.

### Letters of Greeting.

#### I. From Sweden.

From the District Meeting held in Limhamn, Sweden, 1902. To the Annual Meeting in America, Greeting:—We have no question to send to Annual Meeting this year, but we send our heartfelt thanks for the help and assistance which we have received from you in the past. Especially are we thankful that the church sent here Brother and Sister A. W. Vaniman to our help, which we hope will be of much advantage, and we believe that God will through them further advance the Gospel which our beloved brother sowed in our land. We hope and pray that our heavenly Father will give you a blessed meeting and that God's Spirit may lead you and us until we all meet above. Fraternally,

A. W. Vaniman, Moderator; J. M. Risberg, Sec'y.

#### II. From India.

We, the members of the churches of India, send greeting to our dear brethren and sisters in Annual Meeting assembled, Harris-



burg, Pa., 1902.—We are thankful to our common heavenly Father for his many blessings. Our work has grown so that there are now three churches in a State District. A number have been baptized and there are many applicants. We are also thankful that all our European workers have been spared, and only a few of our native Christians have died, though we have been in the midst of plague, smallpox and famine. We thank you for your interest continually shown by your prayers and money, and know the Lord will bless you for all you do for us. We shall think of you and pray for you while you are assembled, and know you will remember us. Signed for the churches; S. N. McCann, Anklesvar; D. L. Forney, Jalalpur; A. Ebey, Bulsar.

### III. From California.

Covina, California, March 27, 1902.

We, the District of California and Arizona, send greeting to the Brethren and Sisters assembled in Annual Meeting of 1902, in Harrisburg, Pa.—First of all we thank God that from the Pacific shores we can send greetings to those of like precious faith assembled in Annual Council in far-away Pennsylvania, the cradle of primitive Christianity in America. This year we send no delegate, but have sent you four queries, and request your most earnest consideration of them. We ask for Annual Meeting to be held among us for the good it will do our people, and all peoples, as an educator and missionary force for the Pacific slope. As a District we are trying to spread the glad tidings and build ourselves up in the faith of the Gospel. We pray that in all your meetings together you may have the presence and guidance of God. May all your purposes in his Son be strengthened; and may he make you mighty in counsel, loving in spirit, and faithful in all your stewardships. Farewell.

(Signed) Geo. F. Chamberlen, Moderator; S. G. Lehmer, Reading Clerk; W. M. Platt, Writing Clerk.

### IV. From Denmark.

We unite in sending our hearty thanks to all our beloved brethren and sisters over the whole Brotherhood of the States, for the help you have given us in sending our dear Brother and Sister Vaniman to Scandinavia as co-workers in our mission; and for both temporal and spiritual help received up to this day. We being united in one faith, once delivered to the saints, commend ourselves to our beloved Brethren in America and hope to have their future sympathy in forwarding the noble work of our Lord among our natives as well as among all nations of the world. May the best blessings from our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ attend all your



efforts and be with you in this Conference and throughout the whole Brotherhood, is our prayer. Amen. In behalf of the Brethren churches in Denmark as a District, signed by elders C. C. Eskildsen, C. Hansen, Sec'y.

#### Answers to Letters of Greeting.

To the Brethren and Sisters of the Districts of Denmark, Sweden and India. Dearly beloved in the Lord:—Your letters of greeting were received and we expressed our appreciation of them by a rising vote of our Annual Conference. We thank you for them and praise the Lord for the work of grace in your midst, and we reciprocate the expressions of love and fellowship, and we hope and pray that you may continue to labor for the extension of the borders of Zion, the sanctification of souls, and the glorification of God, and that when your labors here are ended an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

#### Resolution of Thanks.

Resolved, That we offer our heartfelt thanks:

1. To our heavenly Father for his care over us in our journey hitherward; for his abundant blessings upon the meeting.
2. To the Committee of Arrangements for their excellent care of the guests of the meeting—considering the limited means of conveyance at their command.
3. To the owners of the Park for the free use of the same.
4. To the Committee of Arrangements and their helpers, for the efficient management of the meeting.
5. To the citizens of Harrisburg and vicinity for their generosity and hospitality in giving us so kind a welcome.
6. To the different churches of the city and vicinity for opening to us their houses of worship.
7. To the railroads that used their influence for our special comfort and convenience.

Signed, I. J. Rosenberger,  
J. G. Royer,  
I. D. Parker.

#### Standing Committee for 1902.

1. Tennessee, North Carolina and Florida, .....S. J. Bowman
2. First District of Virginia, .....T. C. Denton, D. A. Naff
3. Second District of Virginia, .....Daniel Hays
4. First District of West Virginia, .....Jeremiah Thomas



5. Second District of West Virginia.
6. Eastern Maryland, .....E. W. Stoner
7. Middle Maryland, .....Absalom Mellott
8. Western Maryland, .....W. T. Sines
9. Eastern Pennsylvania, .....J. H. Longanecker
10. Southern Pennsylvania, .....Isaac Barto
11. Middle Pennsylvania, .....Thomas B. Maddocks
12. Western Pennsylvania, .....Joseph Holsopple
13. Southern Ohio, .....John Calvin Bright
14. Northeastern Ohio, .....Samuel Sprankle
15. Northwestern Ohio, .....C. L. Wilkins
16. Southern Indiana, .....L. T. Holsinger
17. Middle Indiana, .....Daniel Snell
18. Northern Indiana, .....W. R. Deeter
19. Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, .....C. P. Rowland
20. Southern Illinois, .....S. W. Garber, J. C. Stoner
21. Southern Missouri and Northwestern Arkansas, C. Holderman
22. Middle Missouri, .....E. E. John
23. Northern Missouri, .....L. H. Eby
24. First District of Arkansas and Southeastern Missouri, .....  
.....J. H. Neher
25. Southern Iowa, .....C. M. Brower
26. Middle Iowa, .....F. M. Wheeler
27. N. Iowa, S. Minnesota and S. Dakota, .....A. P. Blough
28. North Dakota and Northern Minnesota, .....Levi Mohler
29. Michigan, .....Isaiah Rairigh
30. Nebraska, .....Uriah Shick
31. Northeastern Kansas, .....George Manon
32. Southeastern Kansas, .....M. O. Hodgden
33. Northwestern Kansas and Northern Colorado, C. S. Holsinger
34. S. W. Kansas, S. Colorado, and N. W. Oklahoma, .....  
.....Michael Keller
35. Texas and Southwestern Louisiana, .....Joseph Minix
36. Oklahoma and Indian Territory, .....Samuel Edgecomb
37. California and Arizona, .....By letter
38. Oregon, Washington and Idaho, .....George Wise
39. Denmark, .....D. L. Miller
40. Sweden, .....A. B. Barnhart
41. First District of Asia Minor.
42. First District of Switzerland and France.
43. First District of India, .....W. B. Stover

D. L. Miller, Moderator.

L. T. Holsinger, Reading Clerk.

L. H. Eby,

W. B. Stover, Writing Clerks.



## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1903.

Bellefontaine, Ohio.

The Meeting was organized by electing S. F. Sanger, Moderator; I. Bennett Trout, Reading Clerk; Albert C. Wieand, Writing Clerk; J. D. Mishler, Doorkeeper.

The General Conference was opened at 8 A. M., Tuesday, June 2, 1903.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

1. (a) We petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to decide that all State Districts are entitled to one delegate on Standing Committee of Annual Meeting and that such Districts as have thirty-five hundred members or more are entitled to two delegates on said Committee.

(b) Will not this District Meeting ask Annual Meeting to reconsider resolution of 1889 ("Revised Minutes," page 13), referring to representation by proxy, and provide that all foreign Districts shall be represented by a member or members of their own Districts, or by letter through the Secretary of the General Mission Board?

(c) We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to reconsider resolution of Annual Meeting of 1889 referring to representation by proxy ("Revised Minutes," page 13), and change them so as not to allow any one to serve as a member of Standing Committee who does not have his membership in the District from which he is sent, but give District Meetings in foreign countries the privilege of selecting suitable persons outside of the District to present and explain to Annual Meeting such papers as they may decide to send.

(d) We, the members of the Highland church, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to reconsider minute of 1889, page 13, of "Revised Minutes," and amend so as not to permit any State District to be represented on the Standing Committee by proxy.

(e) Whereas under the present ruling some State Districts are entitled to more than one delegate on Standing Committee while others are not; we therefore ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting to reconsider and so amend her ruling that no



State District be entitled to more than one delegate on Standing Committee.

Answer: The foregoing queries, referring to District representation, were placed in the hands of the following named brethren with instructions to report to Annual Meeting of 1903: S. S. Ulery, T. C. Denton, D. B. Eby, L. W. Teeter, and J. C. Bright.

Report of Committee on District Representation:

We, your committee appointed to take under consideration queries, Art. 2, (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e), Minutes of Annual Meeting, 1902, on the subject of District Representation, beg leave to submit the following report:

Resolved, That each State District in our Brotherhood be allowed a representative on Standing Committee.

Resolved furthermore, That each of such Districts having thirty-five hundred or more members may represent by two delegates on Standing Committee.

Resolved, That hereafter when new State Districts are intended to be organized, a full statement of the proposed organization be presented to general conference and recognized by her before they can represent on the Standing Committee.

Resolved, That every State District be represented on Standing Committee by a member living in the District he represents, or by letter.

Resolved, That the General Missionary and Tract Committee be authorized to assist foreign Districts in defraying the expenses of their delegates on Standing Committee, when said Committee thinks prudent to do so.

Resolved, That all former decisions conflicting with this report be repealed.

S. S. Ulery,  
D. B. Eby,  
L. W. Teeter,  
J. C. Bright,  
T. C. Denton.

Report adopted.

2. (a) We, the members of the George's Creek congregation, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to drop the appellation German Baptist and Dunker or Tunker and retain the old name Brethren. We ask this because of the dissatisfaction in missionary work in having a national qualification in the name German Baptist and the derisive use of the names Dunkard, Dunker and Tunker.



(b) We, the Nocona church, Texas, ask Annual Conference, through our District Conference, that the name Dunker or Dunkard be prohibited from being published by the Brethren Publishing House, as such names are misleading, and misrepresented by dictionaries and commentaries, and are detrimental to the mission work of the Brethren church.

Answer: Referred to the following committee with instructions to report to Annual Meeting of 1903: Elders L. W. Teeter, J. H. Moore, L. T. Holsinger.

Report of the Church Name Committee in 1903:

After a careful consideration we decide to submit the following to the Annual Meeting of 1903:

It is the judgment of your committee that a change of church name is possible without endangering titles to church property or church corporations.

It is further the judgment of your committee that a change of church name would be advantageous.

And in order that the safest possible course may be pursued in recommending the contemplated change, your committee begs the Conference to make an appropriation for reliable counsel, and also asks for another year's time to perfect its report.

L. W. Teeter,  
J. H. Moore,  
L. T. Holsinger.

Current report adopted and committee continued. On motion one hundred dollars (\$100) appropriated for legal advice as asked above.

3. (a) Inasmuch as there is a lack of unity in the young people's work in the Brotherhood, we, the members of the Young People's Christian Association of the Monticello church, petition said church to consider, discuss and revise, if necessary, the plan adopted by said association and to petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, to adopt said plan as revised and amended. Outline of plan: That a committee of five be appointed at each Annual Meeting, whose duty it shall be to arrange, systematically, topical outlines for the coming year and said outline shall be published by the Brethren Publishing House.

Amendment: Whereas the young people of the Monticello church have petitioned the church to petition Annual Meeting, through District Meeting, for a systematic plan of Bible study, and whereas the Monticello church has ordered their petition forwarded to District Meeting, therefore, be it resolved that we, the



Monticello church, supplement their petition to the extent that the outline of Bible study be published quarterly in booklet form.

Answer: Referred to the following committee with instructions to report to Annual Meeting of 1903: I. B. Trout, E. S. Young, Edward Frantz.

(b) Whereas: The Gospel recognizes only one organization composing the body of Christ (Rom. 12: 5; Eph. 4: 4), and, whereas: this one body is fitly framed, joined, compacted, knit and builded together, and whereas: such organizations as Epworth Leagues, Christian Endeavors and similar orders have been, and are detrimental to the best interests of the churches, we therefore petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to discourage and oppose such organizations in the Brethren church, and advise members against holding office in or affiliating with such organizations in other churches; and let all members, old and young, work together in one united body in Christ Jesus to build up the cause and spread the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Referred to above committee.

Report of Committee on Young People's Work:

Bellefontaine, Ohio, June 2, 1903.

To the Annual Meeting, Greeting:

We your committee submit the following:

In order that the department of church work now carried on in our young people's meetings may be unified and made to promote the general welfare of the church, we recommend the following:

1. That suitable subjects with Scripture texts for use in these meetings be published annually in advance by the Brethren Publishing House.

2. That these topics with notes, helps, etc., be published in the regular issues of such publications of the House as may be deemed best; and, further, that suggestions and outlines for more comprehensive and systematic Bible study be published as necessity and expediency may dictate.

3. That where it is practicable to do so, the church shall organize the young people's meeting by selecting a president, a secretary, and a treasurer, to serve for such length of time as may be most suitable, but we do not favor too frequent reorganization. These officers shall be responsible to the church for the proper management of the work, and shall make reports of the same from time to time to the church in her councils.



4. That these meetings be carried on under the name of Christian Workers' Meeting.

I. B. Trout,  
E. S. Young,  
Edward Frantz.

Report adopted.

### QUERIES.

1. We ask Annual Meeting whether Brethren may unite with the Swedish workmen's unions, and we present the following for your consideration:

(1) They are in no sense secret societies.

(2) It is almost impossible for Brethren to get employment in the cities if they do not unite with a union.

(3) If it is not allowable for Brethren to unite with a union, how shall we provide for Brethren who suffer because of not uniting with such an organization?

Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Referred to the following committee to prepare an answer and report to Annual Meeting of 1904: D. L. Miller, D. C. Campbell, Albert C. Wieand.

2. (a) We ask permission to dispense with the salutation between the supper and communion at love feasts. Answer by District Meeting of Denmark.—Request granted.

(b) We, the Egan church, petition Annual Meeting through District Meeting to dispense with the salutation of the kiss between the partaking of the sacrament and Lord's supper. See Mark 14: 22.

(c) Farrenburg church requests District Meeting to petition Annual Meeting to dispense with the salutation of the holy kiss between the supper and communion on love feast occasions.

Answer: These queries were referred to the following committee to report next year: L. W. Teeter, Daniel Hays, Geo. S. Arnold, Edward Frantz, J. H. Moore.

3. We petition Annual Meeting that each minister of the Brethren church be properly equipped with credentials, setting forth the party installing or ordaining him, the place and time of his ordination, and the official position he holds in the church.

Answer: Request granted.

4. Is it in harmony with the Gospel and the welfare of the church to have an address of welcome in the opening of our District and Annual Meetings?



Answer: We decide that no address of welcome or speeches of such character be made at Annual Meeting without unanimous consent of Standing Committee.

5. Will not the Annual Meeting of 1903 decide that answers formulated by committees upon questions referred to them shall be published in the Gospel Messenger not later than April 15, so that the membership may have opportunity to consider them before meeting them in open conference?

Answer: Yes.

6. We petition Annual Meeting to reconsider the decision concerning re-baptizing such as desire to come to us from the Old Order Brethren church. We ask to have said decision so amended as to admit into fellowship such as desire to come to us, having been baptized according to the Gospel, both in mode and design, by administrators who were ministers in good standing before they left the church.

Answer: Referred to the following committee to report next year: H. C. Early, Joseph Holsopple, G. W. Ellenberger, D. B. Eby, J. C. Bright.

7. We request Annual Meeting so to change the present plan for electing directors for the Brethren hospital that in the future said directors be appointed by Standing Committee.

Answer: Request granted and in the future it shall be the duty of the Standing Committee to appoint the directors of the Brethren hospital and of the Annual Meeting to confirm such appointees as may meet approval.

8. We petition Annual Meeting to appoint a brother to make and keep a complete record of the buildings necessary; the kind and amount of material needed to erect the same; the various utensils used, the amount of provisions consumed each day; and such other items concerning Annual Meeting as may be deemed proper, for the information of successive Committees of Arrangements; and, further, that the Committees of Arrangements shall pay the expenses of this brother and give him a reasonable compensation for his services.

Answer: Request granted.

9. We petition Annual Meeting to adopt the following resolution as the rule of faith and practice among us: That our church-houses shall be open to secret organizations for funerals, only when they dispense with their secret-order regalia and ceremonies.

Answer: Petition granted.



10. Whereas the decisions of Annual Meeting concerning the taking of likenesses of and by members is not heeded neither revered, and

Whereas Annual Meeting has decided that there is sufficient legislation on this question (see Minutes of 1894, Art. 2, "Revised Minutes," page 131), we therefore ask District Meeting of Eastern Pennsylvania to petition Annual Meeting to decide that the same course be pursued as is taken in the tobacco, dress and gold questions, making it a test of delegateship to District and Annual Meetings.

Answer of District: We ask Annual Meeting so to decide that delegates to Annual and District Meetings shall be asked if they have their likenesses taken, and if so, if they have them out of sight.

Answer: The following committee was appointed to take up the entire question of likeness and pictures and report at next Annual Meeting: John Herr, D. M. Garver, Andrew Hutchison.

11. We ask Annual Meeting, Is it proper for members of the Brethren (or commonly known as Dunkards) to use the name of "Dunkards" as part of the firm's name?

Answer: No.

12. The General Missionary and Tract Committee asks Annual Meeting to approve of the following:

For the purpose of assisting in building meetinghouses there shall be set apart and perpetuated a fund known as the Church Extension Fund of the General Missionary and Tract Committee.

This fund shall consist of:

1. All money due the Committee on loans in force at the time of the passage of this paper, made on meetinghouses, and known on the Committee's books as Meetinghouse Bills Receivable account.

2. Donations from time to time.

3. Special collections made once each year, at which time a suitable sermon setting forth the needs and importance of church extension work shall be preached.

4. This fund shall be held in perpetuity and be loaned to congregations on such easy terms as will in time enable them to pay it back so the Committee can loan it again to build other houses.

By the adoption of this plan the words "either as a loan or donation, or both, if need be," are stricken out of Sec. 4 of Constitution and the words "by loan" inserted instead.

Gen. Miss. & Tract Com., Galen B. Royer, Sec.

Answer: Request granted.



13. The General Missionary and Tract Committee asks Annual Meeting through Standing Committee for the privilege of placing appropriate advertisements in their enlarged Sunday-school paper.

Galen B. Royer, Sec.

Answer: Request granted.

REPORTS.

Brief Report of General Missionary and Tract Committee for Year Ending March 31, 1903.

The membership in the several foreign fields is as follows:—

India, .....	495
Denmark and Sweden, .....	194
Switzerland and France, .....	41
<hr/>	
Total, .....	730
Membership one year ago, .....	398
<hr/>	
Increase, .....	332

Missions have been sustained with good results in Arkansas, Brooklyn, and Chicago. It is probable the Canada mission will be closed during the ensuing year.

Over one million pages of tracts have been sent out.

Sixteen State Districts have been helped in their work. Ten houses of worship were assisted by donation and four by loans.

Financial.—World-Wide Fund.

Receipts from all sources, .....	\$32,829 59
Expenditures:	
District Work, .....	\$ 3,592 00
Donations to building meetinghouses, ....	1,070 00
Loans to build meetinghouses, .....	1,079 00
Denmark and Sweden Mission, .....	1,903 50
Switzerland and France, .....	1,786 24
Utah Mission, .....	100 00
Canada Mission, .....	266 52
Arkansas Mission, .....	1,289 57
North Carolina Mission, .....	420 15
Florida Mission, .....	25 32
Chicago Mission, .....	937 92
Brooklyn Mission, .....	1,577 93
Annual Meeting committees, .....	202 67
Traveling secretaries, .....	325 77
Annuities, .....	7,050 24
Other items, .....	7,582 64
<hr/>	
Total expenditures, .....	\$29,200 47



Overdrawn last year, .....	\$ 1,041 84	\$30,242 31
Balance on hands, .....		\$ 2,587 28

**Special Funds Show the Following Balances of Cash on Hand:**

Gish Testament Fund, .....	\$ 516 79
India Funds, .....	6,022 06
Superannuated Ministers' Fund, .....	1,931 25
Gish Publishing Fund, .....	948 05
Interest-bearing Funds, .....	341 10
Miscellaneous Funds, .....	1,519 66

**A Few General Statements.**

During the year the Committee received in all funds, cash, \$152,027.25, and appropriated \$144,751.93.

The total assets of the Committee March 31, 1903, are, exclusive of pledged endowments, \$407,841.12, showing an increase during the year of \$54,682.76.

The Brethren Publishing House made a net earning of \$13,494.20, of which \$4,000 was used in missionary work, \$3,000 placed to reserve fund and the balance left in the business.

Persons desiring a complete report may have it sent free by addressing the General Missionary and Tract Committee, Elgin, Illinois.

The Committee: D. L. Miller, Illinois; L. W. Teeter, Indiana; John Zuck, Iowa; A. B. Barnhart, Maryland; H. C. Early, Virginia.

**Auditing Committee's Report.**

To the Annual Meeting of 1903:—

We, your Auditing Committee, appointed to examine the books of the General Missionary and Tract Committee, including those of the Brethren Publishing House, beg to submit the following:

We examined all the accounts, books, checks, vouchers and securities and found them correct.

R. C. Hollinger,  
L. R. Peifer,  
Aaron L. Clair.

Accepted and ordered spread on the Minutes of Annual Meeting.

**Report of Joseph Amick, Treasurer of Annual Meeting, for Year Ending April 1, 1903.**

He charges himself as follows:

To balance April 2, 1902, .....	\$188 10
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March 26, 1903, proceeds of Sales of Annual Meeting Minutes, \$189 60

\$377 70

He asks credit as follows:

May 19, 1902, cash to Geo. E. Wise, fare to A. M., ....	\$47 85	
(Delegate from Oregon.)		
May 19, 1902, Com. Mt. Morris College, Ill.		
P. R. Keltner, .....	\$11 94	
Frank Myers, .....	9 60	
David Rowland, .....	10 00	
		30 94
May 19, 1902, Com. to Huntingdon College, Pa.		
Thos. Maddocks, .....	\$ 3 00	
Jas. A. Sell, .....	3 60	
		6 60
May 19, 1902, Com. to North Manchester College, Ind.		
A. H. Puterbaugh, .....	\$ 3 50	
J. H. Wright, .....	2 40	
Geo. L. Studebaker, .....	13 50	
		19 40
May 19, 1902, Com. to Loraine church, Ill.		
D. C. Campbell, .....	\$25 25	
D. F. Hoover, .....	19 85	
P. R. Keltner, .....	13 02	
		58 12
May 20, 1902, Com. on Divorce.		
M. J. McClure, .....		18 75
May 27, 1902, for Exchange, 3 drafts Home		
National Bank, .....		20
May 27, 1902, Com. Bridgewater College, Va.		
H. G. Miller, .....	\$ 3 00	
S. A. Sanger, .....	1 50	
H. C. Early, .....	1 50	
		6 00
		\$187 86
<hr/>		
To balance on hand April 1, 1903, .....	\$189 84	

Examined and approved by auditing committee for 1903.

Reuben C. Hollinger,

Lewis R. Peifer,

Aaron L. Clair.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

- On Resolutions.—G. B. Royer, H. C. Early, G. L. Studebaker.
- Sunday-school Advisory Committee.—C. D. Bonsack, 3 years; D. G. Wine, 1 year.
- Tract Examining Committee.—Daniel Hays, re-elected.
- Treasurer of Annual Meeting.—Joseph Amick, re-elected.



Missionary and Tract Committee.—S. F. Sanger.

Messenger Advisory Committee.—Edward Frantz, re-elected.

Auditing Committee.—R. C. Hollinger, re-elected.

School Visiting Committees.—Juniata College, T. B. Maddocks; Bridgewater College, Peter Garber; Mt. Morris College, M. S. Newcomer; McPherson College, Wm. Davis; Manchester College, Geo. L. Studebaker, three years; L. H. Dickey, one year for unexpired term of A. H. Puterbaugh, deceased; Lordsburg College, J. W. Trostle, three years; S. G. Lehmer, two years; D. A. Norcross, one year.

General Secretary of the Committee of Arrangements for Annual Meeting.—J. M. Shively, five years.

Missionaries.—William H. Wertenbaker, I. S. Long, Nora Arnold, Sadie Miller, F. E. Showalter, Anna Detwiler, J. M. Blough, Mary N. Quinter, S. P. Berkebile, and Nora E. Berkebile.

Committees to Churches:

West Dayton, Ohio: continued.

Cerrogordo, Ill.: continued.

Liberty, Ill.: continued.

Eastern Pennsylvania: continued.

Western Pa. and West Virginia: continued.

Kidder, Missouri: continued.

Upper Twin church, Ohio: D. C. Campbell, Solomon Bucklew, David Dilling, L. W. Teeter, Tobias Hoover.

Sugar Ridge, Mich.: I. L. Berkey, C. L. Wilkins, W. R. Deeter.

## LETTERS OF GREETING.

### 1. From Sweden.

To the brethren and sisters assembled in Annual Meeting 1903, Greeting:—

We, in District Meeting assembled at Kjefflinge April 12, 1903, send herewith our heartfelt thanks for the help and assistance we have received in the past, and we desire in the future to continue to press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus, where we can meet our loved ones from the four winds of the earth. We hope, and pray our heavenly Father, that he will give you a blessed meeting and that the Holy Spirit may lead you and us until we all meet at home. We have one question to present as follows:

We ask Annual Meeting through District Meeting whether Brethren may unite with the Swedish workmen's unions, and we present the following for your consideration:



1. They are in no sense secret societies.
2. It is almost impossible for Brethren to get employment in the cities if they do not unite with a union.
3. If it is not allowable for Brethren to unite with a union, how shall we provide for Brethren who suffer because of not uniting with such an organization?

A. W. Vaniman, Moderator; J. M. Risberg, Clerk.

## 2. From Denmark.

To the Annual Meeting of the Brethren churches in America, of 1903, from the District Meeting held in Hordum, Denmark, Sept. 14, 1902, Greeting:—

We, the Brethren churches in Denmark, have Bro. Albert C. Wieand, of Smithville, Ohio, our delegate to represent us at this Annual Meeting.

We all join in sending our hearty thanks first to our Lord, and next, to all our brethren and sisters in America, for the help and assistance, both temporal and spiritual, received up to this day.

We are trying, in union and love, faithful to have the saving Gospel (as believed and practiced by the Brethren) preached to sinners, and our members edified. We commend ourselves to our Lord and also to our beloved Brethren in America, hoping to have their sympathy still in time to come, that the noble work of the Lord may be forwarded for the salvation of sinners before Christ shall come.

May the best blessings from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all in this Conference and the whole Brotherhood is our prayer. Amen.

In behalf of the Brethren churches in Denmark as a District. Signed by elders C. C. Eskildsen, P. C. Paulsen, C. Hansen, Secretary.

## Answers to Letters of Greeting from Sweden and Denmark.

To all the Brethren and Sisters in Sweden and Denmark:—

Your letter of greeting sent by your District Meeting has been read in our open Conference, and was received by a unanimous rising vote, and we all rejoice in your faithfulness, your earnestness and your loyalty to the cause of the Master. We return to you our sincere greetings in the Lord, commending you all to his guidance and strength in your labors, as well as to him in all your sufferings and sorrows.

May his peace ever abide with you until we are all united around the Father's throne above is our prayer.



Signed in behalf of the Annual Meeting by S. F. Sanger, Moderator; I. Bennett Trout, Reading Clerk; Albert C. Wieand, Writing Clerk.

### 3. From India.

Anklesvar, India, Jan. 2, 1903.

District Meeting of India sends greeting to Annual Meeting of 1903:—

Dearly beloved in the Lord, inasmuch as we cannot represent by person, we send you this letter. Our hearts were made glad to have our dear Bro. Stover return to us, and especially to learn of the interest you are taking in us here in India. We are very thankful to our Father for his many blessings, and for your continued prayers and support. While some have gone to the other side, in the main we have been well. Many have been baptized, and as our work grows, remember we need your prayers more and more, that faithful men may be placed at the head of the humble native churches to be organized from time to time. The outlook is hopeful. We have now four centers of work, but the work is one.

As you meet in council, we pray for you. May heaven bless you all and guide us onward. Remember us before the Lord.

For the District Meeting, W. B. Stover, Moderator; A. Ebey, Secretary; Mahadev Nonno, Gujarati Secretary.

To all the Brethren and Sisters in India:—

Your letter of greeting we gladly receive in the Lord and send to you our most earnest words of love and greeting in return. We are glad for the encouragement which you have received in the great work before you, and we commend you to our Father in heaven, under whose abiding care we all are. For all the beloved everywhere our hearts are burdened, and daily we pray for you, thus seeking to sustain you in your cheerful though arduous labors. God bless you all. Amen.

Signed in behalf of the Annual Meeting by S. F. Sanger, Moderator; I. Bennett Trout, Reading Clerk; Albert C. Wieand, Writing Clerk.

P. S.—I am instructed to say that your letter was received by a unanimous rising vote.—A. C. Wieand.

### CALLS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF 1904.

(1) Middle Missouri, (2) California and Arizona, (3) Middle Iowa, (4) Southern Missouri and Northwestern Arkansas. The next Annual Meeting is to be held in the District of Southern Missouri and Northwestern Arkansas.



### RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS.

Your committee on resolutions reports as follows:

Resolved, That the Annual Meeting of 1903 express her thanks:

1. To our Father in heaven for his care in bringing his people together in this great Conference without accident, and for the presence and blessing of his Spirit throughout the Conference.

2. To the Committee of Arrangements and their helpers for the faithful performance of their duties.

3. To the Commercial Club of Bellefontaine, Ohio, who furnished the grounds and buildings, with fixtures, queensware, cutlery, etc., water, light and heat, policemen, and boarding for Committee of Arrangements while arranging for the Conference, and all without charge. The Club furnished also the trolley service from the city of Bellefontaine to the grounds.

4. To the citizens of Bellefontaine and vicinity who entertained our people with generosity and hospitality.

5. To the several railroad companies for reduced rates and safe transportation, and especially to the Big Four, the Toledo and Ohio Central and the Wabash lines, who have pledged a rebate to the Committee of Arrangements.

6. To the pastors and members of the several churches of Bellefontaine for opening their houses of worship to our ministers.

Committee, Galen B. Royer, H. C. Early, G. L. Studebaker.

### THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR 1903.

1. First District of India, .....By letter
2. First District of Switzerland and France, .....G. J. Fercken
3. Sweden, .....D. C. Campbell
4. Denmark, .....A. C. Wieand
5. Oregon, Washington and Idaho, .....J. U. G. Stiverson
6. California and Arizona, .....Edmund Forney
7. Oklahoma and Indian Territory, .....Henry Brubaker
8. Texas and Southwestern Louisiana, .....Not represented
9. Southwestern Kansas, Southern Colorado and Northwestern Oklahoma, .....G. W. Weddle
10. Northwestern Kansas and Northern Colorado, ....J. W. Jarboe
11. Southeastern Kansas, .....Salem Beery
12. Northeastern Kansas, .....William Davis
13. Nebraska, .....Conrad Fitz
14. Michigan, .....S. M. Smith



15. North Dakota and Northern Minnesota, ..H. C. Longanecker
  16. Northern Iowa, Southern Minnesota and South Dakota, .....  
.....W. H. Lichty
  17. Middle Iowa, .....John Zuck
  18. Southern Iowa, .....John P. Bailey
  19. First District of Arkansas and Southeastern Missouri, .....  
.....H. J. Lilly
  20. Northern Missouri, .....J. D. Hildebrand
  21. Middle Missouri, .....Chas. M. Yearout
  22. Southern Missouri and Northwestern Arkansas, .....  
.....George Barnhart
  23. Southern Illinois, .....Solomon Bucklew, J. H. Baker
  24. Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, .....I. B. Trout
  25. Northern Indiana, .....S. F. Sanger
  26. Middle Indiana, .....David Dilling
  27. Southern Indiana, .....D. F. Hoover
  28. Northwestern Ohio, .....L. H. Dickey
  29. Northeastern Ohio, .....W. F. England
  30. Southern Ohio, .....L. A. Bookwalter
  31. Western Pennsylvania, .....C. G. Lint
  32. Middle Pennsylvania, .....S. J. Swigart
  33. Southern Pennsylvania, .....E. D. Book
  34. Eastern Pennsylvania, .....John Herr
  35. Western Maryland, .....John T. Green
  36. Middle Maryland, .....David Zuck
  37. Eastern Maryland, .....Uriah Bixler
  38. Second District of West Virginia, .....E. L. Lockard
  39. First District of West Virginia, .....T. S. Fike
  40. Second District of Virginia, .....H. G. Miller, J. P. Zigler
  41. First District of Virginia, .....W. H. Naff
  42. Tennessee, .....Jacob Wine
  43. North and South Carolina and Georgia, .....Geo. A. Branscom
- S. F. Sanger, Moderator; I. Bennett Trout, Reading Clerk;  
Albert C. Wieand, Writing Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1904.

Carthage, Mo.

After the usual religious exercises the following organization was made: H. C. Early, Moderator; I. D. Parker, Reading Clerk; H. B. Brumbaugh, Writing Clerk; W. C. Hanawalt, Doorkeeper.



## UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

1. We ask Annual Meeting whether Brethren may unite with the Swedish workmen's union, and we present the following for your consideration:

(1) They are in no sense secret societies.

(2) It is almost impossible for Brethren to get employment in the cities if they do not unite with a union.

(3) If it is not allowable for Brethren to unite with a union, how shall we provide for Brethren who suffer because of not uniting with such an organization?

Sent to Annual Meeting.

## Report of Committee.

Labor unions as now conducted often lead to violence, and sometimes to riot and bloodshed, and as these are contrary to the spirit and teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we cannot allow our members to unite with or belong to them. John 28: 36; Philpp. 2: 15.

As to providing for those in need, see Art. 18, Conference Minutes of 1888, page 137, "Revised Minutes."

D. L. Miller,  
D. C. Campbell,  
A. C. Wieand.

Answer: Report adopted.

2. (a) We ask permission to dispense with the salutation between the supper and communion at love feasts. Answer by district meeting of Denmark.—Request granted.

(b) We, the Egan church, petition Annual Meeting through district meeting to dispense with the salutation of the kiss between the partaking of the sacrament and Lord's supper. See Mark 14: 22.

(c) Farrenburg church requests district meeting to petition Annual Meeting to dispense with the salutation of the holy kiss between the supper and communion on love feast occasions.

Answer: These queries were referred to the following committee to report next year: L. W. Teeter, Daniel Hays, Geo. S. Arnold, Edward Frantz, J. H. Moore.

Your committee regret that they are not ready to report at this meeting. They ask that they be granted another year to complete their investigation and perfect their report.

L. W. Teeter, Foreman.



Answer: Request granted.

3. (a) We, the members of the George's Creek congregation, petition Annual Meeting through district meeting to drop the appellation German Baptist and Dunker or Tunker and retain the old name Brethren. We ask this because of the dissatisfaction in missionary work in having a national qualification in the name German Baptist and the derisive use of the names Dunkard, Dunker and Tunker.

(b) We, the Nocona church, Texas, ask Annual Conference through our district conference that the name Dunker or Dunkard be prohibited from being published by the Brethren Publishing House, as such names are misleading, and misrepresented by dictionaries and commentaries, and are detrimental to the mission work of the Brethren church.

Answer: Referred to the following committee with instructions to report to Annual Meeting of 1903: Elders L. W. Teeter, J. H. Moore, L. T. Holsinger. (Art. 5, 1902.)

Through legal counsel, which we regard as perfectly reliable, we learn that there are no legal obstacles in the way of making a change in our church name:

Therefore, we recommend that the name be changed from German Baptist Brethren to New Testament Church.

L. W. Teeter,  
J. H. Moore,  
L. T. Holsinger.

Answer: Spread the report on the minutes for one year.

4. Whereas the decision of Annual Meeting concerning the taking of likenesses of and by members is not heeded, neither revered, and

Whereas Annual Meeting has decided that there is sufficient legislation on this question (see Minutes of 1894, Art. 2, "Revised Minutes," page 131), we therefore ask district meeting of Eastern Pennsylvania to petition Annual Meeting to decide that the same course be pursued as is taken in the tobacco, dress and gold questions, making it a test of delegateship to District and Annual Meetings.

Answer of District.—We ask Annual Meeting so to decide that delegates to Annual and district meetings shall be asked if they have their likenesses taken, and if so, if they have them out of sight.

Answer: The following committee was appointed to take up



the entire question of likenesses and pictures and report at next Annual Meeting: John Herr, D. M. Garver, Andrew Hutchison.

We, your committee on photos or likenesses, beg to submit the following in the fear of God:—

Whereas, Scripture references given in support of decisions on the likeness question, as they now stand on the minutes, refer to images of worship, we now decide to repeal all former decisions on this question, and at the same time refer to Rom. 8: 5-7; Luke 16: 15; Gal. 5: 24, 25; 1 John 2: 15, 16, as standing strongly against the practice.

We, therefore, in good faith, file our most earnest protest against the present extravagant use of likenesses, photos, and reproductions of crayon, and enjoin upon elders and ministers to labor in harmony with this decision.

John Herr,  
D. M. Garver,  
Andrew Hutchison.

Answer: While not unmindful of the good intentions of the Conferences passing the decisions regarding likenesses, we now decide to repeal these decisions, and at the same time enter our protest against the extravagant use of money for photographs.

5. We petition Annual Meeting to reconsider the decision concerning rebaptizing such as desire to come to us from the Old Order Brethren church. We ask to have said decision so amended as to admit into fellowship such as desire to come to us, having been baptized according to the Gospel, both in mode and design, by administrators who were ministers in good standing before they left the church.

Answer: Referred to the following committee to report next year: H. C. Early, Joseph Holsopple, G. W. Ellenberger, D. B. Eby, J. C. Bright.

To the Annual Meeting, Carthage, Mo., May 24, 1904. Greeting:—

Your committee decides against the petition for these reasons:

(1) The church is one body, with one Lord, one faith, one baptism. 1 Cor. 12: 12; Col. 1: 18; Eph. 4: 5.

(2) All her members are baptized into the one body by the one Spirit, and drink into one Spirit. 1 Cor. 12: 13.

(3) There should be no schism, or division, in the body. 1 Cor. 12: 25.

(4) The church, under the Holy Spirit, chooses her officials, installs them into office, and authorizes them as ministers. Acts



1: 23-26; 6: 5, 6; 1 Tim. 4: 14; Heb. 5: 1-4. It logically follows that if a minister loses his membership, either by expulsion or withdrawal, he loses his official authority and stands in the same relation to the body officially as if he had never been a minister.

H. C. Early,  
Joseph Holsopple,  
Geo. W. Ellenberger,  
D. B. Eby,  
John Calvin Bright.

Answer: That the report of the committee be spread on the minutes one year.

### QUERIES.

1. (a) To the Annual Meeting of 1904, Greeting:—We recommend that some plan be adopted by Annual Meeting to obviate the crowding and pressing as well as delay of time by the delegates to get before the committee on credentials.

Answer.—The First District of Virginia suggests the following plan: Have uniform credential certificates printed, setting forth the requirements of Annual Meeting. Let each delegate when elected sign the certificate showing that he is in harmony with the requirements, and let him present this certificate to the committee on credentials, properly signed by the church he represents. If the committee have reason to do so they may still ask all the necessary questions.

(b) The New Enterprise church asks Annual Meeting through district meeting, to authorize a form containing the qualifications of delegates to Annual Meeting that may be subscribed to by delegates and witnessed by the clerk of the local congregation, thus curtailing the labor of the committee on credentials and relieving the delegates from unnecessary delay in securing an audience before the committee.

(c) Inasmuch as the present plan of examining delegates to the Annual Meeting is not satisfactory, we, the Elgin church, ask Annual Meeting through district meeting of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin to appoint a committee of three to draw up such regulations or to provide such a plan as would properly cover the purpose of committee on credentials and report to the Annual Meeting of 1905. Answer.—Passed. Answer by district meeting.—Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer: The foregoing queries placed in the hands of the following committee with instructions to prepare a form and re-



port to next Annual Meeting: I. B. Trout, Geo. L. Studebaker, I. J. Rosenberger.

2. (a) The Middle Creek church petitions Annual Meeting through district meeting of Western Pennsylvania that the decision in Minutes of 1894, Art. 2, under heading of "Resolutions from Standing Committee," be repealed, and that all mission money be used exclusively for mission purposes.

The resolution reads as follows: "Resolved, that the expenses of the committee appointed to visit the churches of Western Pennsylvania and the First District of West Virginia be paid by the General Missionary and Tract Committee."

(b) The Middle District of Pennsylvania petitions Annual Meeting, asking that the decision in minutes of 1894, Art. 2, under heading of "Resolutions from the Standing Committee" be repealed, and that all "mission money" be used exclusively for mission purposes. The resolution referred to reads as follows: "Resolved that the expenses of the committee appointed to visit the churches of Western Pennsylvania and the First District of Virginia be paid by the General Missionary and Tract Committee."

Answer: We decide that Art. 2, Annual Meeting Minutes of 1894, under "Resolutions from Standing Committee," and the decision pertaining to the expense of the committee to Eastern Pennsylvania, found in minutes of 1892, be repealed, and that the expenses of all committees appointed by Annual Meeting, that are not otherwise provided for, shall be paid out of the Annual Meeting treasury.

3. When a district meeting appoints a committee of two elders on ordination according to the decision of Annual Meeting (see Art. 16, section 2, page 70, "Revised Minutes"), and at the time set for the elders to meet with the church to which they are sent, one of the elders is unavoidably prevented from attending, can another elder be substituted if one is present, if done by the unanimous sanction of the elders and members of the church present, or must the ordination be deferred until the elders appointed by district meeting can be present?

Passed to district meeting. Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Another elder can be substituted by the elder who cannot go, as in committees appointed to settle difficulties in churches. See Art. 15, 1858, page 81, "Revised Minutes."

4. We, the Washington City church, petition Annual Meeting of 1904, through district meeting of Eastern Maryland, to direct



that the topics with notes, helps, etc., for the Christian Workers' meeting be published in the Gospel Messenger.

Answer: This meeting refers the request to the General Missionary and Tract Committee.

5. We ask Annual Meeting through district meeting to say whether it is right according to the Gospel for Brethren and especially ministers to purchase phonographs and stereopticon outfits and hold entertainments in schoolhouses through the different churches, post bills for such entertainments and charge admittance thereto, thereby causing hard feelings.

Answer: We think it wrong, according to the tenor of the Gospel, for a minister to do as stated in the query, and we recommend that, inasmuch as it is the abuse and not the use of the instruments named in the query that is wrong, all of our brethren should exercise great care in their use.

6. Morrill church assembled in regular council do hereby petition Annual Meeting through district meeting of Northeastern Kansas that no brother or sister be permitted to solicit funds in any church for any purpose whatever until such solicitors shall first present proper credentials from their home church to the elder or official body of the church in which they desire to solicit for approval.

Answer: We recommend that all members soliciting aid for any cause, in churches other than their own, carry with them proper credentials as solicitors.

7. We, the Los Angeles church, petition Annual Meeting through district meeting to make a fourth Annual Meeting district, known as the Coast District, and to include all States west of 110th meridian west longitude. This so to be an alternative district to have the Annual Meeting once while the other districts have it twice.

Answer: Request granted.

8. To the Standing Committee and Annual Meeting of 1904:—The General Missionary and Tract Committee respectfully submits the following for your approval:

**Ministerial and Missionary Relief Fund.**

This fund shall be used for the support of aged and infirm missionaries and ministers in good standing in the German Baptist Brethren church, who may be left without other means of support. It shall be under the management of the General Missionary and Tract Committee of said church.



The fund shall be composed of twenty per cent of the Gish Fund, twenty per cent of the earnings of the Brethren Publishing House, annually set apart for mission work, cash donations, income from endowments either by direct bequest, gift or on the annuity plan, and by money received from those who enjoy a full support from the fund.

No one shall receive aid from this fund who is able to support himself, or who has sufficient income to keep him in a comfortable home and afford him the necessities of life, or who has sons or daughters who are able and willing to give the aid sought.

No one shall receive full support from the fund unless all money or property that he may have be turned over to the committee to be invested and the interest used for the aid of the beneficiaries of the fund. If the beneficiary is in possession of a home he shall deed it to the committee for endowment, retaining the use of same for himself and widow, if he leave one, during their lifetime.

In order to receive aid from the fund application must be made to the congregation in which the one desiring aid has his membership. The applicant must have served the church faithfully as a missionary or minister and must be in good standing in the church when the application is made.

It shall be the duty of the congregation carefully, to investigate the needs of the applicant, his means of support and property owned by him, and if the applicant comes within, and complies with, the rules governing the fund, a formal application may be made, signed by the elder in charge of the church and by at least one minister or deacon. This shall be made on printed blanks to be furnished by the secretary of the committee. No application for aid will be considered unless made on blanks supplied for that purpose.

Upon the death of the beneficiary the aid shall cease unless he leaves a widow, who shall receive such aid from the fund as the church in which she lives may consider her entitled to. Widows of missionaries and ministers may receive aid from the fund under the rules provided for their husbands.

The committee shall not incur any indebtedness on account of the fund, and may grant aid only when there is money on hand to pay the required amount.

Answer: Approved by Annual Meeting.

9. To the Standing Committee:—In view of the peculiar relation which the Missionary Committee sustains to the general



Brotherhood, it asks that its members be exempt from serving on any committee work to the churches as long as they serve on the Missionary Committee.

Answer: Request granted.

## REPORTS.

### Report of General Missionary and Tract Committee.

To the Annual Meeting of 1904:

Your committee is pleased to submit this brief report for the year ending March 31, 1904, and in doing so wishes to acknowledge its great indebtedness to the "Lord of the harvest" for what has been done.

The year is one of marked growth. At conference last year a number of missionaries were offered and at the same time their support was pledged. This year there are a number more of organizations pledging support, but workers who are fitted for service are not very plentiful. The church has come to a time when more prayer to the Lord that he may send laborers is needed, for with such praying there will come more setting apart for this important work.

In addition to this special support mentioned above, the receipts for missions are decidedly increased, as anyone will discover if he takes the time to compare the complete report of one year ago with the one submitted this year.

As to the field, India reports 271 baptisms during 1903, and later information gives several hundred in this year. The workers are happy in their labors of love, and burdened only by the sinfulness of heathendom and their weakness in coping with the conditions because of their few numbers. Yet they forget not that might is with the Lord.

In Denmark and Sweden Brother Vaniman has been doing a good work. The ingathering is not so large, but conditions are quite different from India. The fact that he has built up the work so well and by the grace of God brought others into the fold is a very great encouragement for that field.

Near the close of the fiscal year France and Switzerland, under the direction of Brother Fercken, witnessed an encouraging ingathering. The church in these missions is much built up.

As for America and the various mission points, both city and country, under the care of the board, there has been progress. Each point has had its own difficulties, discouragements and successes. Yet onward has been the motto at each place.



Excluding the interest-bearing funds, the receipts for the year are as follows:

World-wide fund, .....	\$36,289 09	
India fund, .....	15,917 28	
Less transferred from the world-wide fund, .....	\$2,681 52	
Interest-bearing funds, .....	2,500 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$5,181 52	10,735 76
Church extension fund, .....		933 21
Superannuated ministers' fund, .....		827 55
Colored mission in Arkansas, .....		210 92
Gish publishing fund, .....		4,635 56
Gish Testament fund, .....		233 38
Miscellaneous funds, .....		2,182 60
		<hr/>
Total receipts, .....	\$56,048 07	
The expenditures have been as follows:		
World-wide fund, .....	\$33,772 98	
Of this transferred to India fund, .....	2,681 52	\$31,091 46
India fund, .....		17,150 67
Church extension, .....		750 00
Superannuated ministers' fund, .....		96 00
Colored missions in Arkansas, .....		217 00
Gish publishing fund, .....		4,409 82
		<hr/>
Total expenditures, .....	\$53,714 95	

It will be of interest to know that during the year the assets of the Committee, which is practically all in the endowment, has been increased \$71,370.19. This does not include the pledged endowment contracts.

The Publishing House is in a prospering condition. More room is needed and is being provided for. The various publications are steadily winning their way into new homes.

But this report is necessarily very brief. A complete one containing 52 pages will be mailed anyone for the asking. It answers many questions concerning the missions of the church.

The new year already well along shows every sign of still greater success for the Lord's cause. May he not find many, many through whom he can accomplish much more for the lost? May there be a deeper love, a more abiding faith, and a greater willingness to sacrifice for Christ's sake than ever before.

Respectfully submitted,

The Committee: D. L. Miller, John Zuck, A. B. Barnhart, H. C. Early, S. F. Sanger.



### Auditing Committee's Report.

To the Annual Meeting of 1904:

We, your committee appointed to examine the books of the General Missionary and Tract Committee, including those of the Brethren Publishing House, beg to submit the following:

We footed all the items of Cash Book of the Brethren Publishing House, checked the totals through posting into the ledger; proved the ledger; followed the balances into the balance sheet, examined carefully the statement of resources and liabilities as set forth in the report herewith presented, and find the work correct in every particular.

We compared the donations to the several mission funds published in the Missionary Visitor with the books of the Committee, proved all the pages of the cash book; checked the amount into the ledger and through to the financial statement herewith submitted to your body, and found the same true and correct.

We made a careful examination of securities held by the Committee and find them all right. Vouchers were presented for every expenditure and all moneys handled in a careful, judicious and business-like manner.

Lewis R. Peifer,  
Aaron L. Clair,  
Jacob P. Holsinger.

### Report of Annual Meeting Treasurer for Year Ending April 1, 1904.

By Jos. Amick, Treasurer.

He charges himself as follows:

To cash balance on hand, April 1, 1903, .....	\$189 84
June 8, 1903, to cash refunded by J. U. G. Stiverson, .....	1 30
March 23, 1904, proceeds of Annual Meeting Minutes of 1903, ..	197 80

Total, .....	\$388 94
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He asks credit as follows:

May 26, 1903, D. L. Miller, telegram Standing Committee, .....	\$ 35
June 1, 1903, J. H. Neher, Fruitdale, Ala., expenses (com.), .....	36 36
June 1, 1903, Com. to North Manchester College, Ind.	
J. H. Wright, .....	\$ 3 00
W. R. Deeter, .....	5 00
Geo. L. Studebaker, .....	10 00
June 1, 1903, P. R. Keltner, committee work, Liberty church, Ill., .....	12 25
June 1, 1903, Com. to Bridgewater College, Va.	
H. C. Early, .....	\$ 3 30



H. G. Miller, .....	\$ 2 00	
Peter Garber, .....	4 50	\$ 9 80
June 1, 1903, J. U. G. Stiverson, half expenses delegate Oregon, Idaho and Wash.,....		43 35
June 1, 1903, Com. to McPherson, College, Kans. Uriah Shick, .....	\$12 00	
Michael Keller, .....	11 47	23 47
June 11, 1903, Com. to Juniata College, Pa. James A. Sell, .....	\$ 9 00	
Thos. B. Maddocks, .....	9 05	18 05
Aug. 13, 1903, L. W. Teeter, for legal opinion on church name, .....		10 45
Aug. 31, 1903, Com. to Mt. Morris College, Ill. C. C. Price, .....	\$ 5 00	
Frank Myers, .....	9 00	
David Rowland, .....	9 00	23 00
Exchange draft, .....		20
Balance on hand April 1, 1904, .....	\$193 66	
		<hr/> \$388 94

Examined and approved by auditing committee for 1904.

Lewis R. Peifer,  
Aaron L. Clair,  
Jacob P. Holsinger.

#### Report of Hospital Trustees.

The trustees of hospital had several meetings, have adopted constitution and by-laws, but, unfortunately, a combination of circumstances has been such that we cannot report much progress. We have not been able to secure workers who could give this their entire time, and until we do so not much can be done. The time of H. P. Albaugh expires at this meeting as trustee, and you should reappoint him or appoint his successor. Respectfully submitted.

Galen B. Royer, Chairman of Trustees.

Answer: Report accepted by Annual Meeting.

#### Committees Appointed.

On Resolutions.—J. G. Royer, J. A. Dove, G. N. Falkenstein.

Sunday School Advisory Committee.—H. P. Albaugh.

Tract Examining Committee.—T. C. Denton.

Treasurer of Annual Meeting.—R. E. Arnold.

Missionary and Tract Committee.—A. B. Barnhart, H. C.

Early.

Messenger Advisory Committee.—Geo. S. Arnold.

Auditing Committee.—L. R. Peifer.



School Visiting Committees.—Juniata College, D. B. Stayer; Bridgewater College, H. G. Miller; Mt. Morris College, David Rowland; McPherson College, Michael Keller; North Manchester College, W. R. Deeter; Lordsburg College, Geo. Chamberlen.

Committees to Churches:

West Dayton, Ohio: L. T. Holsinger, I. D. Parker, G. L. Studebaker.

Eastern Pennsylvania: D. Hays, W. R. Deeter, Uriah Bixler.

Killbuck, Ind.: I. D. Parker, Daniel Snell, A. G. Crosswhite.

Bear Creek, W. Va.; C. G. Lint, Jeremiah Thomas, D. B. Arnold.

Summitville, Ind.: I. D. Parker, Daniel Snell, D. F. Hoover.

Western Pennsylvania: Submitted to the elders of the district, but committee retained for advice and counsel if needed.

Trustee of the General Conference.—D. M. Garver, elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Henry Frantz.

Southwestern Passenger Association.—W. C. Hanawalt.

### LETTERS OF GREETING.

#### 1. From Sweden.

To the Annual Meeting of 1904:

We, in district meeting assembled, hereby send to all our brethren and sisters in America our heartfelt thanks for all the help and assistance to the present time, and hope to be remembered by you in the future; and promise, by the help of God, like Paul, to "press forward toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." We trust that the blessing of God will rest upon your meeting, and that the Holy Ghost may help you and us in our labors in the Gospel, is our united prayer.

In behalf of the district meeting.

A. W. Vaniman, Moderator.

J. M. Risberg, Secretary.

#### Answer to Letter of Greeting from Sweden.

Carthage, Missouri, May 25th, 1904.

To the Lord's children in Sweden we send Greeting:

Dear Brethren and Sisters, your greeting of love to the church in Annual Meeting assembled was gladly and lovingly received. And we hereby return a hearty greeting of good will, feeling to praise the Lord for what he is doing for his working band. And also pray that his blessings may continue with his people in every land.

Signed by the officers of this Conference: H. C. Early, Moder-



ator; I. D. Parker, Reading Clerk; H. B. Brumbaugh, Writing Clerk.

## 2. From Denmark.

To the Annual Meeting of the Brethren churches in America, of 1904, Greeting:

We, in district meeting assembled, at Sindal, Denmark, Aug. 30, 1903, desire hereby to express our gratitude for the interest that the Brotherhood in America has shown us during the past years and for the help they have given us to the present time. We have no query to present this year, but desire hereby to send our greetings and an expression of our love and appreciation. We are still pressing forward, trying to do what we can, and ask an interest in your prayers that souls may be saved and the work may move forward. Our prayer is that the grace of the Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ may be with you in your meeting, and that the Conference will result in much good to those present as well as for the whole Brotherhood.

In behalf of the Brethren churches of Denmark: C. C. Eskildsen, P. C. Poulsen, C. Hansen, Sec.

## Answer to Letter of Greeting from Denmark.

Carthage, Mo., May 25, 1904.

To the dear Brethren and Sisters in Denmark, Greeting:

We wish to say to you that your letter of greeting to the church in Annual Meeting assembled has been lovingly received. And we hereby return to you a cheerful greeting of love, feeling to praise the Lord for what he is doing for his people. And also to pray that his great blessings may ever abide with his faithful workers in every land.

Signed by the officers of this conference: H. C. Early, Moderator; I. D. Parker, Reading Clerk; H. B. Brumbaugh, Writing Clerk.

## 3. From India.

To the Brethren's Annual Meeting of 1904, assembled, Carthage, Mo., Greeting in the Lord:

Dearly beloved and richly blessed of God, we your brethren and sisters composing the band of workers in India, rejoice in the Lord because he has blessed us all in many, many ways. We were indeed ungrateful did we not rejoice in him. We were very thankful for what our Father has done for you, for us, for the work. We are thankful that we have all been spared, we who have been here for some time. We are thankful for the new workers,



who brought courage and enthusiasm with them. We who just lately arrived are thankful for the safe and happy voyage, for the greeting of loved ones of like precious faith, for the warm reception as new workers. All are thankful for the many gathered into the fold and for the prospects of the work. Brethren, you have made our thankfulness possible by your interest, your assistance, your prayers. As you meet we think of you and we know you will not forget us. May the Lord fill you with all good, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

In behalf of the missionaries: S. N. McCann, W. B. Stover, D. L. Forney, Adam Ebey.

#### **Answer to Letter of Greeting from India.**

Carthage, Mo., May 25, 1904.

To the faithful band of workers in India, Greeting:

Dear brethren and sisters, your letter of love to the church in Annual Meeting assembled was joyfully received. And we hereby return to you a cheerful greeting of love and good will, feeling to praise the Lord for what he is, and has been, doing for his people. And also to pray that his blessings may ever abide with his people in every land.

Signed by the officers of this conference: H. C. Early, Moderator; I. D. Parker, Reading Clerk; H. B. Brumbaugh, Writing Clerk.

#### **4. From France and Switzerland.**

The members of the mission of the Brethren church in France and Switzerland send fraternal greetings to Annual Meeting of 1904, with heartfelt thanks for the interest, help and assistance, both temporal and spiritual, faithfully continued to these two continental fields. We trust they will never fail us as we go on here, laboring amid sore trials and difficulties to proclaim the truth of Jesus and unfurl the banner of primitive Christianity. The day of glorious opportunities is short, and the night is fast coming. May we all continue faithful to our high calling, that our path may be as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. As you meet in council, pray for us, as we will surely pray for you, that the great Head of the church, Jesus Christ, may bless and guide you in all your deliberations.

G. J. Fercken, Chairman.

#### **Answer to Letter of Greeting from France and Switzerland.**

Carthage, Mo., May 25, 1904.

To the dear brethren and sisters in France and Switzerland, Greeting:



We wish to say to you that your letter of greeting to the church in Annual Meeting assembled has been lovingly received. And we hereby send to you a hearty greeting of love in return, feeling to praise the Lord for what he has been doing for you and us. And pray that his blessings may ever abide with his faithful workers in every land.

Signed by the officers of this meeting: H. C. Early, Moderator; I. D. Parker, Reading Clerk; H. B. Brumbaugh, Writing Clerk.

#### **Calls for Annual Meeting of 1905.**

(1) Tennessee, (2) Southern Pennsylvania. The next Annual Meeting will be held in Tennessee.

#### **Resolutions of Thanks.**

Your committee on resolutions reports as follows:

Resolved, that Annual Meeting of 1904 express her thanks:

1. To our heavenly Father for his watch care over his people in bringing them to this conference without accident, and for the presence and blessing of the Holy Spirit throughout its several sessions.

2. To the Committee of Arrangements and their helpers for the faithful performance of their many duties.

3. To the Commercial Club of the city of Carthage, Mo., who furnished the grounds and buildings, together with the furnishings and fixtures, and police service. Also for courtesies shown the Committee of Arrangements while preparing for the conference.

4. To the citizens of Carthage and vicinity who so generously and hospitably entertained our people while in attendance at conference.

5. To the several railroads for reduced rates and the excellent train service furnished; and especially to the initial lines—the Frisco and Missouri Pacific—for the rebates pledged to the Committee of Arrangements.

6. And to the pastors of the several churches of the city of Carthage for opening their churches to our ministers.

Committee,

J. G. Royer,

J. A. Dove,

G. N. Falkenstein.

#### **The Standing Committee for 1904. .**

1. North and South Carolina and Georgia, .... John C. Woodie
2. Tennessee, ..... N. B. Sherfy



3. First District of Virginia, ..... P. S. Miller, C. D. Hylton
4. Second District of Virginia, ..... Daniel Hays, H. C. Early
5. First District of West Virginia, ..... George S. Arnold
6. Second District of West Virginia, ..... Z. Annon
7. Eastern Maryland, ..... Samuel H. Utz
8. Middle Maryland, ..... A. B. Barnhart
9. Western Maryland, ..... W. I. Sines
10. Eastern Pennsylvania, ..... I. W. Taylor, J. H. Longanecker
11. Southern Pennsylvania, ..... William A. Anthony
12. Middle Pennsylvania, ..... H. B. Brumbaugh
13. Western Pennsylvania, .... D. H. Walker, Jasper Barnthouse
14. Southern Ohio, ..... J. C. Bright, Daniel M. Garber
15. Northeastern Ohio, ..... C. J. Workman
16. Northwestern Ohio, ..... David Lytle
17. Southern Indiana, ..... L. W. Teeter
18. Middle Indiana, ..... I. D. Parker, L. H. Eby
19. Northern Indiana, ..... W. R. Deeter, I. L. Berkey
20. Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, ..... John Heckman
21. Southern Illinois, ..... S. W. Garber
22. Southern Missouri and Northwestern Arkansas, .. F. W. Dove
23. Middle Missouri, ..... G. W. Lentz
24. Northern Missouri, ..... M. E. Stair
25. First District of Arkansas and Southeastern Missouri, .....  
..... Ira P. Eby
26. Southern Iowa, ..... E. G. Rodabaugh
27. Middle Iowa, ..... I. W. Brubaker
28. Northern Iowa, Southern Minnesota and South Dakota, ....  
..... J. E. Rolston
29. North Dakota and Northern Minnesota, ..... J. A. Weaver
30. Michigan, ..... C. L. Wilkins
31. Nebraska, ..... S. M. Forney
32. Northeastern Kansas, ..... R. A. Yoder
33. Southeastern Kansas, ..... E. M. Wolfe
34. Northwestern Kansas and Northern Colorado, .. A. C. Daggett
35. Southwestern Kansas, Southern Colorado and Northwestern  
Oklahoma, ..... Geo. E. Studebaker
36. Texas and Southwestern Louisiana, ..... J. A. Miller
37. Oklahoma and Indian Territory, ..... N. S. Gripe
38. California and Arizona, ..... S. E. Yundt
39. Oregon, Washington and Idaho, ..... J. H. Stover
40. Denmark, ..... By letter
41. Sweden, ..... By letter
42. First District of Switzerland and France, ..... By letter



43. First District of India, .....D. L. Forney  
H. C. Early, Moderator.  
I. D. Parker, Reading Clerk.  
H. B. Brumbaugh, Writing Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1905.

Bristol, Tenn.

After devotional exercises, Conducted by Elder. L. W. Teeter, the organization of the meeting was announced as follows: Moderator, John Zuck; Reading Clerk, D. F. Hoover; Writing Clerk, A. G. Crosswhite; Doorkeeper, J. S. Geiser.

### Unfinished Business.

1. (a) We ask permission to dispense with the salutation between the supper and communion at love feasts.

Answer by district meeting of Denmark.—Request granted.

(b) We, the Egan church, petition Annual Meeting through district meeting to dispense with the salutation of the kiss between the partaking of the sacrament and Lord's Supper. See Mark 14: 22.

(c) Farrenburg church requests district meeting to petition Annual Meeting to dispense with the salutation of the holy kiss between the supper and communion on love feast occasions.

Answer: These queries were referred to the following committee to report next year; L. W. Teeter, Daniel Hays, Geo. S. Arnold, Edward Frantz, J. H. Moore.

Your committee regret that they are not ready to report at this meeting. They ask that they be granted another year to complete their investigation and perfect their report.

L. W. Teeter, Foreman.

Answer: Request granted.

### Report on Salutation Question.

With one member of the committee absent, we do not see our way clear to present, for consideration at this conference, a united answer to the papers on the salutation question.

L. W. Teeter,  
D. Hays,  
Edward Frantz,  
J. H. Moore.



2. We petition Annual Meeting to reconsider the decision concerning rebaptizing such as desire to come to us from the Old Order Brethren church. We ask to have said decision so amended as to admit into fellowship such as desire to come to us, having been baptized according to the Gospel, both in mode and design, by administrators who were ministers in good standing before they left the church.

Answer: Referred to the following committee to report next year: H. C. Early, Joseph Holsopple, G. W. Ellenberger, D. B. Eby, J. C. Bright.

To the Annual Meeting, Carthage Mo., May 24, 1904. Greeting:

Your committee decides against the petition for these reasons:

(1) The church is one body, with one Lord, one faith, one baptism. 1 Cor. 12: 12; Col. 1: 18; Eph. 4: 5.

(2) All her members are baptized into the one body by the one Spirit, and drink into one Spirit. 1 Cor. 12: 13.

(3) There should be no schism, or division, in the body. 1 Cor. 12: 25.

(4) The church, under the Holy Spirit, chooses her officials, installs them into office, and authorizes them as ministers. Acts 1: 23-26; 6: 5, 6; 1 Tim. 4: 14; Heb. 5: 1-4. It logically follows that if a minister loses his membership, either by expulsion or withdrawal, he loses his official authority and stands in the same relation to the body officially as if he had never been a minister.

H. C. Early,  
Joseph Holsopple,  
Geo. W. Ellenberger,  
D. B. Eby,  
John Calvin Bright.

Answer: That the report of the committee be spread on the minutes one year.

Answer: The report of committee adopted.

3. (a) To the Annual Meeting of 1904, Greeting: We recommend that some plan be adopted by Annual Meeting to obviate the crowding and pressing as well as delay of time by the delegates to get before the committee on credentials.

Answer: The First District of Virginia suggests the following plan: Have uniform credential certificates printed, setting forth the requirements of Annual Meeting. Let each delegate when elected sign the certificate showing that he is in harmony with the requirements, and let him show this certificate to the committee on credentials, properly signed by the church he represents. If the



committee have reason to do so they may still ask all the necessary questions.

(b) The New Enterprise church asks Annual Meeting through district meeting, to authorize a form containing the qualifications of delegates to Annual Meeting that may be subscribed to by delegates and witnessed by the clerk of the local congregation, thus curtailing the labor of the committee on credentials, and relieving the delegates from unnecessary delay in securing an audience before the committee.

(c) Inasmuch as the present plan of examining delegates to the Annual Meeting is not satisfactory, we, the Elgin church, ask Annual Meeting through district meeting of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin to appoint a committee of three to draw up such regulations or to provide such plan as would properly cover the purpose of committee on credentials and report to the Annual Meeting of 1905.

Answer: Passed. Answer by district meeting.—Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer: The foregoing queries placed in the hands of the following committee with instructions to prepare a form and report to next Annual Meeting: I. B. Trout, Geo. L. Studebaker, I. J. Rosenberger.

Report of Committee Appointed to Provide Credentials for Delegates to Annual Meeting.

Credential for Delegates to Annual Meeting.

Name of State District, .....  
Name of congregation, .....  
Name of delegate, .....  
Official position of delegate (If any), .....

This is to certify that ..... has been chosen to represent the above-named congregation at the Annual Meeting, to be held at ....., Date, .....

We recommend .....for..... spiritual life and character and as being in full accord with the rules and practices of the church as defined by Annual Meeting.

Signed,

..... Elder of Congregation.

..... Clerk of Congregation.

I, the undersigned delegate, do not use, raise, buy or sell tobacco. (See Art. 7, minutes of A. M., 1896, p. 165, "Revised Minutes of Annual Meeting.")



I do not wear gold as forbidden by the Scriptures. (See 1 Tim. 2: 9; 1 Peter 3: 3; also Art. 14, minutes of A. M., 1897, p. 126, "Revised Minutes of Annual Meeting.")

I endorse and defend plainness in apparel and nonconformity to the world in our manner of life as the Scriptures teach. (See Rom. 12: 1, 2; Titus 2: 11-14; 1 Peter 1: 14; 4: 1-5.)

I, the undersigned delegate, accept the above credential and I am willing to work in harmony with the rules of the Brotherhood.

Signed, .....Delegate.

Signed by Committee,

I. B. Trout,

I. J. Rosenberger,

Geo. L. Studebaker.

Passed.

4. As clerk of the late Annual Conference, I have been apprised of the fact that the wrong answer appears in our late Minutes to query No. 7, page 8. I know not how the mistake should have occurred. The query and answer should have appeared thus, instead of the way they now stand in the Minutes:

We, the Los Angeles church, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting to make a fourth Annual Meeting district, known as the Coast District, and include all of the States west of the 110th meridian, west longitude. This so to be an alternative district as to have the Annual Meeting once while the other districts have it twice.

Answer: Decided to make the fourth Annual Meeting district, known as the Coast District, and that this district shall have the meeting as often as wisdom, gained by experience and otherwise, may direct.

H. B. Brumbaugh.

Answer: Decided to correct the minutes of 1904 concerning above-mentioned mistake.

#### Queries.

1. (a) We, the Monitor church, of Oklahoma, in regular council petition Annual Meeting through district meeting to prohibit members from engaging in the sale of playing cards, dice, diamonds, gold rings, gold watches and other articles of display, and refer to the following: "Revised Minutes," page 180, Art. 15, 1892; also page 125, Art. 19½, 1891.

(b) Good Hope church, Sterling, Colo., in regular quarterly council, asks Annual Meeting through district meeting to prohibit members who are engaged in mercantile business from selling such



articles as playing cards, dice, dominoes, and such articles of display as diamonds, rings and gold chains.

The following committee was appointed to consider above papers and report to Annual Meeting of 1906: T. C. Denton, D. F. Hoover, I. J. Rosenberger.

2. Whereas the method of saving orphan and homeless children adopted by the District of Oklahoma and Indian Territory has proven successful and economical; such children being gathered and placed in Christian families, where they are properly trained and educated, and much good is being done: Therefore, the district meeting of Oklahoma and Indian Territory, 1904, petition Annual Meeting of 1905 to recommend that a similar method be adopted by the various State districts, so that orphan and homeless children be gathered from both country and city and placed in select families; also, that the different districts coöperate with each other, in harmony with the laws of the State, so that the greatest amount of good may be done.

Answer: We heartily endorse the work of the district of Oklahoma and Indian Territory in saving the homeless children, and urge that our several districts awaken to this important work.

3. (a) Good Hope church, Sterling, Colo., in regular quarterly council, asks Annual Meeting through district meeting to have the General Missionary and Tract Committee to examine all text-books used by the Brethren schools, and prohibit their use if not in accordance with the doctrine of the Bible and German Baptist Brethren church.

(b) Cedar church petitions Annual Meeting through the district meeting that the present system of visiting committees to our schools be discontinued, and that a board of five capable and well-established elders be chosen to pass upon all questions of a moral and religious character growing out of the management of such schools. Said board to report annually to the Annual Meeting through the Standing Committee their findings, and that all schools authorized by Annual Meeting shall make through their president annual reports to said board of the moral and spiritual progress, and, when deemed necessary by this board, it shall make personal visits to any or all of said schools, and the expenses thereof be provided for by the Annual Meeting.

(c) Mineral Creek church petitions Annual Meeting through the district meeting of Middle Missouri to arrange for the ownership and control of the Brethren's schools by the church; and for this purpose appoint a committee of seven brethren to arrange a



plan to embrace: First, Establishment; Second, Endowment; Third, Government, according to the principles of the Brethren church; Fourth, Appointment of trustees, faculties, etc., in such a manner that the true sentiment of the Brotherhood may be taught and practiced in the schools; Fifth, Curriculum; Sixth, Such other matters as may be essential to the successful operation of the school. Furthermore requested that at least four of the committee be brethren who have never been officially connected with the schools.

(d) Whereas, Annual Meeting, in her care for the moral and religious welfare of her schools, has appointed school committees, carefully outlining their duty (see "Revised Minutes of Annual Meeting," page 149, paragraphs 1 and 2 under Art. 14; also 4th paragraph on page 150), and,

Whereas, in the face of all the foregoing, some one, or some of our schools are receiving members into the church allowing them to continue in all their former fashions, sisters wearing hats, etc.; student members in many instances return to their home church unreconciled to the established rules of the church, thus scattering confusion in the home church, and in many instances they hold their membership in their school church;

Therefore, we, the North Star church, ask Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to call upon Standing Committee to exercise greater care in receiving the reports of these school committees and adopt such measures as, in her judgment, will lead those committees and the church in which such schools are located to do their duty as defined in the minutes referred to.

(e) Inasmuch as the athletics in our schools and colleges is looked upon with concern by many of our brethren, therefore, we ask Annual Meeting through district meeting to decide:

First, whether the intercollegiate contest games of baseball, football, and such like games, are consistant with the principles as held by the church.

Second, whether it is considered right for the management of these schools known as Brethren schools, to permit the use of such intercollegiate contests as a source of revenue, or to use them as a means of discipline in the government of said schools.

(f) Inasmuch as most of our Brethren are engaged in agriculture and stockraising, and many wish their children educated to that end, and,

Inasmuch as our brethren are compelled to send their children to our state institutions to obtain such an education, Rockingham church asks Annual Meeting of 1905, through district meeting of Northern Missouri, to pass on the advisability of our schools



(at least two or more) adopting a course in agriculture, animal husbandry, etc., to fill this very urgent need.

Answer: The above queries were placed in the hands of the following committee, to report to Annual Meeting of 1906: H. C. Early, S. F. Sanger, L. D. Mohler, Jeremiah Thomas, D. G. Wine.

4. Inasmuch as a difference of sentiment prevails in our Brotherhood in regard to union Sunday-school conventions, we ask Annual Meeting through district meeting the following questions: Is it advisable: First, For members to take part in such meetings? Second, To open our churchhouses for the same? Third, To support the same by financial aid?

Answer: We urge care in taking part in such conventions, so as not to compromise our principles.

5. Indian Creek church requests Annual Meeting through district meeting, that inasmuch as there are features about county and state fairs that are not objectionable, and many members wish to avail themselves of their benefits, can they be allowed to do so, if they avoid the foolish and unbecoming?

Answer: We renew our protest against members going to county and state fairs (see Minutes of A. M., Art. 29, 1853, Art. 14, 1859, page 124 of "Revised Minutes of Annual Meeting"), and include World's Fairs as well, and therefore, in order to maintain the purity of the church, we urge upon our faithful ministers everywhere to teach and admonish members not to attend such places.

6. Carlisle church petitions district meeting to petition Annual Meeting to change day of opening Annual Meeting from Tuesday to Wednesday so as to give one day to Christian Workers', educational and district mission work, and such other work as may be of interest to the church.

Answer: Spread on the minutes for consideration one year.

7. The Batavia church asks district meeting of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin to ask Annual Meeting to appoint a committee of competent brethren to formulate a plan for the effective distribution of the ministerial force of the Brethren church.

Answer: The above paper was placed in the hands of a committee of five, to wit, G. B. Royer, I. J. Rosenberger, D. L. Mohler, D. N. Eller, I. L. Hoover, who are to report to Annual Meeting of 1906.

8. West Dayton church: Whereas it is the established rule of the church that an annual visit be paid to all the members by the deacons, and,



Whereas, it is almost impossible to pay such visit in large congregations in the city, because Brethren are absent from home during the day;

Therefore, we ask Annual Meeting through district meeting to permit the elder or pastor of such congregations to call special meetings at the usual place of worship where the visit may be paid in a manner as private as possible.

Answer: We recommend that so far as possible the usual course of visiting be followed.

9. Inasmuch as the bicentennial of our beloved Brotherhood will be in 1908; therefore, we, the Philadelphia church, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to appoint a committee of five brethren to consider the matter, plans, etc., for an appropriate observance of the occasion; said committee shall report to Annual Meeting of 1906. Passed by the district meeting of Eastern Pennsylvania, with the answer that the petition be granted.

Answer: Considered that the request is answered by reference to the thirty-second chapter of Deuteronomy.

10. We, the Botetourt church, ask Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to define their decision of 1886 relative to delegates to district meeting, and say whether all churches, regardless of the number of their membership, are entitled to two delegates, and whether churches of large membership are limited to two delegates.

Answer: We do not so define that query referred to (see "Revised Minutes," p. 14), that each congregation in the district may send two representatives to district meeting.

## REPORTS.

### Report of General Missionary and Tract Committee.

To the Annual Conference of 1905, convened at Bristol, Tenn., June 6, 7.

Your Committee is glad to submit the following report of the work which it has, by the mercies of God, been able to do during the fiscal year, ending March 31, 1905. And in doing so it should be remembered that this is only a brief report and that a complete one will be submitted without expense to any one asking for same.

During the year the missionaries set apart for India entered the field, save our dear lamented Bro. Swigart, who was called to his reward just before the party sailed. Eld. D. L. Miller and wife and his brother, W. R. Miller, of Chicago, went with the



party on their own resources and to them the Committee is indebted for many helpful suggestions and thoughts concerning work in that far-away field.

At the request of the Committee and the approval of last Annual Meeting Brethren D. L. Miller and I. Bennett Trout visited the churches of Denmark, Sweden, France and Switzerland and reported their observations both through the Gospel Messenger and to the Committee direct.

The churches who are taking a live interest in missions by supporting a worker, and the individuals who are willing to support a native worker or an orphan in India have increased during the year. The needs of the India field have now grown to such an extent that it will require an annual expenditure of over \$20,000 to keep up what work has been begun. But a united effort on the part of the church will readily meet this and more.

The accessions during the year in the several fields are 325.

The State Districts helped in the United States are 13.

The number of meetinghouses built, total assistance \$2,200, is 5.

Total expenditure for all missions is \$61,558.85.

An itemized statement of these expenditures appearing in the Annual Report, the following is given here in the general:

### World-Wide Fund.

#### Receipts.

Cash balance from last year, .....		\$ 5,103 37
Keuka congregation, Florida, returned, .....	\$ 60 00	
Pleasant View congregation, Kansas, returned once given for Hutchinson mission, .....	150 00	
Mary S. Geiger, for Orphanage in France, ....	1,200 00	
Donations from congregations and individuals, including interest on endowment pledges, as reported in the Missionary Visitor, .....	15,643 38	
Income from endowment and real estate, ....	16,760 59	
Income from Brethren Publishing House, .....	9,000 00	
Donated for colored mission in South, .....	401 62	
Total receipts, .....		43,215 59
Total, .....		\$48,318 96

#### Expenditures.

Donation to Harrisburg meetinghouse (allowed nearly two years ago), .....	\$ 500 00
Smyrna mission, D. Chirighotis, .....	37 50
Annuities, .....	10,560 26
Annual Meeting committee, .....	264 61
Assistance to State Districts, .....	5,409 00



Special mission points in the United States, ..\$	3,587 00	
Denmark and Sweden, .....	4,200 90	
France and Switzerland, .....	2,897 01	
Deficit in India Funds, .....	7,789 03	
Church Extension Fund, .....	794 21	
Brethren Publishing House, .....	4,422 58	
Book and Tract Fund, .....	4,849 89	
General Expense, .....	2,650 29	
Total expenditures, .....		\$47,962 28
Balance, .....		\$ 356 68

## India Missions.

## Receipts.

Cash balance from previous year, .....		\$ 4,788 67
General donations reported in Miss. Visitor, \$	2,166 63	
Donations for Orphanage reported in Missionary Visitor, .....	4,140 40	
Donations for native workers, .....	406 44	
Special support of missionaries, .....	2,650 00	
For transmission, to workers from friends, ..	446 64	
Income from endowment, .....	89 30	
Received from D. L. Forney, balance reported one year ago, .....	75 00	
Received from World-wide fund to make up deficit, .....	7,789 03	
Total receipts, .....		\$17,763 44
		\$22,552 11

## Expenditures.

D. L. Forney, part of expense home, ..\$	80 09	
Support in United States till January 1, 1905, .....	350 00	
Traveling expenses among churches, .....	63 85	\$ 493 94
Elizabeth McCann, expense home, ....	317 50	
Support in the United States, ....	190 00	
Return expenses, .....	276 54	784 04
Missionary party, tickets to Bombay and traveling expenses,—		
Mission party tickets to Bombay, .....	1,806 71	
Preparation, .....	501 89	2,308 60
Support of workers on field to July 1, 1905, ....	\$3,544 06	
For missions in general, .....	4,000 00	
Dispensary, .....	61 09	
For transmission, .....	471 64	
Industrial work, .....	303 23	
Bungalow at Dahanu, .....	1,200 00	
Forwarded for Orphanage work, .....	7,500 00	



Forwarded for native workers, .....	\$ 719 00	
Total amount sent to India, .....		\$21,385 60
Balance of cash on hands, .....	\$ 1,166 51	

The endowment has been increased \$32,775.00, of which amount Pennsylvania gave over half.

The Annual Report contains this year a very interesting illustrated account of the present printing plant which is now valued from an investment standpoint at \$93,000.00. This report should be read by every one in the church and it is hoped that many will ask for it.

The assets which could be accurately invoiced, not including the pledged endowment, now has reached \$506,831.15.

The call now is that the Brotherhood raise \$100,000.00 for missions during the current year. It may seem a large amount if looked at from just one angle. The time was twenty years ago when Annual Meeting urged the membership to give a cent a week per member for general missions. This present call is based on giving but two cents per week, or a dollar per year. If every member shall feel the burden of souls to the extent of at least one dollar each the amount of \$100,000.00 and more will be easily and gladly laid on the altar of the Lord. And if salvation to ourselves would be appreciated from this angle to the extent of one cent per day the amount would be three times as great.

It is the fervent prayer of the Committee breathed through the riches of the spirit of grace so manifest in this present Annual Meeting at Bristol, that the membership will gladly take hold of this plan of raising the \$100,000.00, and that when the fiscal year closes March 31, 1906, there will not be one cent lacking of the desired amount. For this accomplishment as well as for all other effort, to the Lord should be the honor and glory forevermore.

The General Missionary and Tract Committee: D. L. Miller, Chairman; H. C. Early, Vice-Chairman; John Zuck, A. B. Barnhart, S. F. Sanger.

#### Report of Auditing Committee.

To the Annual Meeting of 1905:

We your committee appointed to audit the books and accounts of the General Missionary and Tract Committee, including those of the Brethren Publishing House, beg to submit the following:

We verified all the additions in the various account books; proved the postings into the ledger, and checked the results to the



financial statement herewith submitted to you, and found the same correct.

We compared the donations to the various mission funds, as acknowledged in the "Missionary Visitor," with the books of the Committee and found them all properly accounted for.

We carefully examined the securities held by the Committee and found them in good condition. Receipts were presented for every expenditure of money. All records have been made in a careful and systematic manner, thoroughly in keeping with the growth of the business.

Aaron L. Clair,  
Reuben C. Hollinger,  
Lewis R. Peifer.

### Report of Annual Meeting Treasurer for the Year Ending April 1, 1905, R. E. Arnold, Treasurer.

#### Receipts.

Received from Joseph Amick, former treasurer, May 24, 1904,	\$193 66
Feb. 15, 1905, Proceeds of A. M. Minutes of 1904, .....	191 27
Total, .....	<u>\$384 93</u>

#### Expenditures.

May 24, 1904, Urias Shick, visiting McPherson College,	\$12 00	
May 24, 1904, Wm. Davis, visiting McPherson College, ..	14 44	
May 24, 1904, Michael Keller, visiting McPherson College, .....	11 25	\$37 69
May 25, 1904, L. W. Teeter, attorney fee on Church, Name question, .....	25 00	
Correspondence, R. R. fare, etc., .....	8 45	33 45
May 25, 1904, Geo. L. Studebaker, visiting North Manchester College, .....	10 00	
May 25, 1904, visiting West Dayton church, .....	6 00	16 00
May 25, 1904, J. H. Wright, visiting North Manchester College, .....		4 00
May 25, 1904, Tobias Hoover, visiting West Dayton church, including \$2.00 balance due, ....	8 57	
May 25, 1904, L. H. Dickey, visiting West Dayton church, two trips, .....	15 00	23 57
May 25, 1904, J. H. Stover, one-half expenses delegate of Oregon, Washington and Idaho to A. M., Carthage, .....		34 20
June 14, 1904, Thos. B. Maddock, visiting Juniata College, .....	6 76	
June 14, 1904, Jas. A. Sell, visiting Juniata College, ....	9 00	15 76
June 20, 1904, C. C. Price, visiting Mt. Morris College, .....		6 00
June 24, 1904, H. C. Early, visiting Bridgewater College, .....	5 40	
June 24, 1904, H. G. Miller, visiting Bridgewater College, .....	3 00	



June 24, 1904, Peter Garber, visiting Bridgewater College, .....	\$4 50	\$ 12 90
July 1, 1904, D. Rowland, visiting Mt. Morris College, .....		10 00
Jan. 23, 1905, Jas. A. Sell, visiting Juniata College, .....		8 00
Balance on hand April 1, 1905, .....		183 36
		<hr/>
		\$384 93

The Annual Meeting Treasurer's Report examined by Auditing Committee for 1905 and found correct.

Aaron L. Clair,  
Reuben C. Hollinger,  
Lewis R. Peifer.

### COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

Credentials.—S. S. Ulery, J. C. Bright, J. P. Zigler.

Resolutions.—I. Bennett Trout, S. F. Sanger, L. H. Dickey.

Missionary and Tract Committee.—D. L. Miller, reappointed; John Zuck, reappointed.

Sunday School Advisory Committee.—Otto L. Minnich.

Tract Examining Committee.—John E. Mohler.

Treasurer Annual Meeting.—R. E. Arnold, reappointed one year.

Messenger Advisory Committee.—P. R. Keltner.

Auditing Committee.—Aaron L. Clair, reappointed.

School Visiting Committees.—Juniata College, S. J. Swigart; Bridgewater College, H. C. Early, reappointed; Mt. Morris College, C. C. Price, reappointed; McPherson College, A. D. Sollenberger; Manchester College, J. H. Wright, reappointed; Lordsburg College, J. S. Brubaker.

Annual Meeting Railroad Committee.—D. L. Miller, foreman, Western Association; Isaac Frantz, Central Association; E. W. Stoner, Eastern Association; P. S. Miller, Southeastern Association; W. C. Hanawalt, Southwestern Association; all reappointed.

Committees to Churches.

Liberty, Illinois: D. C. Campbell, P. R. Keltner, D. F. Hoover, continued.

Western Pennsylvania: S. F. Sanger, A. B. Barnhart, Samuel Sprankle.

Note.—The first two named are continued as advisory to local committee.

Eastern Pennsylvania: D. Hays, L. T. Holsinger, P. S. Miller.

Oakley, Illinois: L. W. Teeter, I. B. Trout, A. G. Crosswhite.

Dayton, Ohio: Committee continued.

Ft. Wayne, Indiana: D. F. Hoover, S. M. Smith, J. C. Bright.



## LETTERS OF GREETING.

### 1. From Sweden.

To the Annual Conference of 1905 Greeting:

Again has another year's work come to a close, and God has allowed us to assemble at our District meeting, this time at Wanneberga, and we have unitedly decided to send you, our dear brethren and sisters in America who are of the same precious faith, a hearty thanks for all the help and assistance we have received from you in the past, both spiritually and temporally. Although it is not possible for us to repay you for your hearty sacrifice, which you have made for us here in Sweden, we shall try to press forward toward the mark and the prize, and to the place where we may meet and see each other's faces, and forever praise our dear Savior, and receive from him the reward which through grace he will give each of us.

We wish and pray that you may have a pleasant and profitable meeting, and desire to be remembered by you, in the future.

A. W. Vaniman, Moderator; J. M. Risberg, Secretary.

Committee to answer above appointed by Moderator: G. B. Royer, J. Kurtz Miller.

### 2. From Denmark.

Greetings from Denmark to the Annual Meeting of 1905:

The members of Denmark in District Meeting assembled at Hørdum Sept. 11, 1904, desire hereby to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the church in America, for the hearty sympathy we have always received from you, as well as the substantial help extended, ever since the mission has been organized here. We are glad to have with us at our meeting a number of members from America, which is a great comfort and encouragement to us, and their presence and advice are much appreciated. This is additional evidence of the interest that the church in America has in us. We pray the Lord to richly bless your meeting, that it may be to the forwarding of the great mission of the church—the spreading of the Gospel, to all parts of the world.

M. Johansen, Moderator; C. Hansen, Secretary.

Accepted and same committee appointed by Moderator.

### Answer to Letters of Greeting from Denmark and Sweden.

Dear Brethren and Sisters in Denmark and Sweden:—

The Annual Conference of 1905, held at Bristol, Tennessee, June 6 and 7, is glad to receive the greetings which you have sent through your respective District Meetings, and to note the spirit



of loyalty and devotion to the Master's cause, and the expression of gratitude for assistance rendered, as expressed therein.

This Conference, in the love which it holds towards all the faithful in every land and clime, returns the greetings and prays that the Spirit through the Word may be able to lead you all unto greater faith, fuller sacrifice and a more perfect love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Fraternally, John Zuck, Moderator; A. G. Crosswhite, Clerk.

### **CALLS FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF 1906.**

Southern Illinois, Northeastern Ohio, Southern Ohio, Northern Indiana. Granted to Southern Illinois.

### **RESOLUTIONS.**

Resolved, that this Annual Meeting expresses thanks to our heavenly Father for his watchcare, blessings, and the presence of his Holy Spirit during this meeting;

To the Board of Trade of the city of Bristol for their interest and help, and for inviting us to hold another conference here, and for inviting our people to locate among them;

To the city papers for the courtesies shown us in moulding sentiment favorable to the meeting;

To the citizens and citizens' committee of Bristol for all their hospitality and kindness to our people;

To the Committee of Arrangements and all their helpers for their faithful performance of duty;

To the churches of the city, and to their pastors for their kindness in welcoming us into their places of worship;

To the police force for the good order and protection afforded in so quiet a way;

To the railroads and all others who have helped to make it possible for us to have a pleasant meeting.

May God's blessing rest upon all.

I. B. Trout,  
S. F. Sanger,  
L. H. Dickey.

### **THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR 1905.**

1. First District of India.
2. First District of Switzerland and France.
3. Sweden.
4. Denmark.
5. Oregon, Washington and Idaho, .....C. A. Williams



6. California and Arizona, .....G. F. Chamberlen
  7. Oklahoma and Indian Territory ,.....A. L. Boyd
  8. Texas and Southwestern Louisiana, .....M. H. Peters
  9. Southwestern Kansas, Southern Colorado and Northwestern  
Oklahoma, .....J. J. Yoder
  10. Northwestern Kansas and Northern Colorado, .....I. S. Lerew
  11. Southeastern Kansas, .....John Sherfy
  12. Northeastern Kansas, .....George Manon
  13. Nebraska, .....D. G. Wine
  14. Michigan, .....S. M. Smith
  15. North Dakota and Northern Minnesota, .....Levi Mohler
  16. Northern Iowa, Southern Minnesota and South Dakota, ....  
.....H. F. Maust
  17. Middle Iowa, .....John Zuck
  18. Southern Iowa, .....C. M. Brower
  19. First District of Arkansas and Southeastern Missouri, .....  
.....H. J. Lilly
  20. Northern Missouri, .....D. A. Miller
  21. Middle Missouri, .....D. Bowman
  22. Southern Missouri and Northwestern Arkansas, .....  
.....William Harvey
  23. Southern Illinois, .....D. J. Blickenstaff
  24. Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, .....D. E. Price
  25. Northern Indiana, .....W. B. Neff
  26. Middle Indiana, .....A. G. Crosswhite
  27. Southern Indiana, .....D. F. Hoover
  28. Northwestern Ohio .....G. W. Sellers
  29. Northeastern Ohio, .....William Desenberg
  30. Southern Ohio, .....I. J. Rosenberger, D. S. Filbrun
  31. Western Pennsylvania, .....C. G. Lint
  32. Middle Pennsylvania, .....James A. Sell
  33. Southern Pennsylvania, .....E. X. Miller
  34. Eastern Pennsylvania, .....Tobias Myers, John Herr
  35. Western Maryland, .....By Letter
  36. Middle Maryland, .....W. S. Reichard
  37. Eastern Maryland, .....Thomas J. Kolb
  38. Second District of West Virginia, .....Z. Annon
  39. First District of West Virginia, .....Jeremiah Thomas
  40. Second District of Virginia, .....H. G. Miller, J. M. Kagey
  41. First District of Virginia, .....Wm. H. Naff, T. C. Denton
  42. Tennessee, .....S. J. Bowman
  43. North and South Carolina and Georgia, .....H. M. Griffith
- John Zuck, Moderator; D. F. Hoover, Reading Clerk; A. G. Crosswhite, Writing Clerk.



ANNUAL MEETING OF 1906.  
Springfield, Ill.

After devotional exercises, conducted by Eld. J. G. Royer, Eld. John Zuck, the retiring moderator, announced the organization as follows: Moderator, Eld. S. F. Sanger, of Indiana; Reading Clerk, Eld. H. C. Early, of Virginia; Writing Clerk, Eld. I. B. Trout, of Illinois; Doorkeeper, Eld. J. Kurtz Miller, of New York.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

1. We, your committee, to whom were committed the following papers beg leave to report as follows:

(a) We, the Monitor church, of Oklahoma, in regular council, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to prohibit members from engaging in the sale of playing cards, dice, diamonds, gold rings, gold watches and other articles of display, and refer to the following: "Revised Minutes," page 180, Art. 15, 1892; also page 125, Art. 19½, 1891.

(b) Good Hope church, Sterling, Colo., in regular quarterly council, asks Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to prohibit members who are engaged in mercantile business from selling such articles as playing cards, dice, dominoes, and such articles of display as diamonds, rings and gold chains.

The following committee was appointed to consider above papers and report to Annual Meeting of 1906: T. C. Denton, D. F. Hoover, I. J. Rosenberger.

We consider it inconsistent and we prohibit members from engaging in the sale of articles such as named in the queries, thus encouraging their use in violation to Rom. 14: 13; 1 Peter 3: 4; 1 Tim. 2: 9; Rom. 12: 1.

T. C. Denton,  
I. J. Rosenberger,  
David F. Hoover.

Report accepted.

2. (a) Good Hope church, Sterling, Colo., in regular quarterly council, asks Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to have the General Missionary and Tract Committee to examine all text-books used by the Brethren schools, and prohibit their use if



not in accordance with the doctrine of the Bible and German Baptist Brethren church.

(b) Cedar church petitions Annual Meeting, through the district meeting, that the present system of visiting committees to our schools be discontinued, and that a board of five capable and well-established elders be chosen to pass upon all questions of a moral and religious character growing out of the management of such schools. Said board to report annually to the Annual Meeting, through the Standing Committee, their findings, and that all schools authorized by Annual Meeting shall make, through their president, annual reports to said board of the moral and spiritual progress, and, when deemed necessary by this board, it shall make personal visits to any or all of said schools, and the expenses thereof be provided for by the Annual Meeting.

(c) Mineral Creek church petitions Annual Meeting, through the district meeting of Middle Missouri, to arrange for the ownership and control of the Brethren's schools by the church; and for this purpose appoint a committee of seven brethren to arrange a plan to embrace: First, Establishment; Second, Endowment; Third, Government, according to the principles of the Brethren church; Fourth, Appointment of trustees, faculties, etc., in such a manner that the true sentiment of the Brotherhood may be taught and practiced in the schools; Fifth, Curriculum; Sixth, Such other matters as may be essential to the successful operation of the school. Furthermore requested that at least four of the committee be brethren who have never been officially connected with the schools.

(d) Whereas, Annual Meeting, in her care for the moral and religious welfare of her schools, has appointed school committees, carefully outlining their duty (see "Revised Minutes of Annual Meeting," page 149, paragraph 1 and 2 under Art. 14; also 4th paragraph on page 150), and,

Whereas, in the face of all the foregoing, some one, or some of our schools are receiving members into the church allowing them to continue in all their former fashions, sisters wearing hats, etc.; student members in many instances return to their home church unreconciled to the established rules of the church, thus scattering confusion in the home church, and in many instances they hold their membership in their school church;

Therefore, we, the North Star church, ask Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to call upon Standing Committee to exercise greater care in receiving the reports of these school committees and adopt such measures as, in her judgment, will lead to exercise greater care in receiving the reports of these school com-



those committees and the church in which such schools are located to do their duty as defined in the minutes referred to.

(e) Inasmuch as the athletics in our schools and colleges is looked upon with concern by many of our brethren, therefore, we ask Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to decide:

First, whether the intercollegiate contest games of baseball, football, and such like games, are consistent with the principles as held by the church.

Second, whether it is considered right for the management of these schools known as Brethren schools, to permit the use of such intercollegiate contests as a source of revenue, or to use them as a means of discipline in the government of said schools.

(f) Inasmuch as most of our Brethren are engaged in agriculture and stockraising, and many wish their children educated to that end, and,

Inasmuch as our brethren are compelled to send their children to our State institutions to obtain such an education, Rockingham church asks Annual Meeting of 1905, through district meeting of Northern Missouri, to pass on the advisability of our schools (at least two or more) adopting a course in agriculture, animal husbandry, etc., to fill this very urgent need.

Answer: The above queries were placed in the hands of the following committee, to report to Annual Meeting of 1906: H. C. Early, S. F. Sanger, L. D. Mohler, Jeremiah Thomas, D. G. Wine.

Your committee has a report in progress, but it is not ready to be submitted, and it will not be ready for this conference.

H. C. Early,  
Levi D. Mohler,  
S. F. Sanger.

Report accepted and committee continued.

3. Carlisle church petitions district meeting to petition Annual Meeting to change day of opening Annual Meeting from Tuesday to Wednesday so as to give one day to Christian Workers', educational and district mission work, and such other work as may be of interest to the church.

Answer: Spread on the minutes for consideration one year.

Put in the hands of the following committee to report to next Annual Meeting: D. N. Eller, Manly Deeter, G. B. Royer.

4. The Batavia church asks district meeting of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin to ask Annual Meeting to appoint a committee



of competent brethren to formulate a plan for the effective distribution of the ministerial force of the Brethren church.

Answer: The above paper was placed in the hands of a committee of five, to-wit, Galen B. Royer, I. J. Rosenberger, D. L. Mohler, D. N. Eller, I. L. Hoover, who are to report to Annual Meeting of 1906.

#### **Report of Committee on Ministerial Distribution.**

We your committee, appointed at the Annual Meeting of 1905 to prepare some plan for the "effective distribution of the ministerial force of the Brethren church," submit the following for consideration:

We know no way that this conference can require the present ministerial force to change location unless they choose to do so, or feel called of God to move.

We, however, request this conference to reaffirm its decision of 1890 (Revised Minutes, Page 113, Article 6), with some modification, so as to read as follows:

1. Let churches from time to time hold elections to increase our ministry, with a view of meeting the growing demand for preaching the Gospel both at home and in the various localities of the missionary field of the world. And when installing ministers, they shall be asked to promise to hold themselves in readiness as much as possible, to be used by the church wherever they may be needed.

2. The following is suggested as an aid in such election: (a) As far as possible, the one chosen should be young in years. (b) After elected, he should be warmly encouraged by the congregation, and if need be, assisted, in preparing himself fully to be "a worker that needeth not be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth." (c) He must be sound in the faith and have a willingness to teach and defend the principles of the Gospel and the doctrines and peculiarities of the church as defined and applied by Annual Meeting, and manifest the same in his conversation, life and character.

3. Each state district shall appoint a committee of three ministers, two of whom are elders, who are known to be favorable to aggressive Sunday-school, evangelistic and missionary effort, whose duties shall be: (a) To assist churches in locating ministers in needy fields. (b) To encourage frequent elections, and if need be urge congregations to hold elections at least once in five years. (c) To report their work to district meeting annually. (d) The expense of such services, if not met by the congregations,



shall be paid out of some general fund maintained by the district.

Signed: Galen B. Royer, I. J. Rosenberger, D. L. Mohler,  
D. N. Eller, Isaac L. Hoover, Committee.

Passed.

#### 5. Report on Salutation.

To General Conference of 1906:

At the Conference of 1903, a committee composed of L. W. Teeter, Daniel Hays, Geo. S. Arnold, Edward Frantz and J. H. Moore was appointed to form an answer to the following queries, and report to the Conference of 1904:

(a) We ask permission to dispense with the salutation between the supper and communion at love feasts.

Answer by district meeting of Denmark.—Request granted.

(b) We, the Egan church, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to dispense with the salutation of the kiss between the partaking of the sacrament and Lord's Supper. See Mark 14: 22.

(c) Farrenburg church requests district meeting to petition Annual Meeting to dispense with the salutation of the holy kiss between the supper and communion on love feast occasions.

The committee was able to report progress only, to the Conference of 1904 and 1905, but was continued, and requested to make final report to the Conference of 1906.

The committee, as a whole, is, in brotherly sincerity, agreed to offer two reports, as follows:

(1) After duly considering the question entrusted to us as a committee, we propose the following:

We recommend that permission be granted to dispense with the salutation between the supper and the communion, where this can be done without disturbing the peace of the church, and observe the salutation instead as a farewell love greeting just before the closing prayer.

J. H. Moore,  
Edward Frantz,  
George S. Arnold.

(2) In view of the very emphatic language of Jesus, on the subject of brotherly love, immediately after the supper, and Judas' departure, as recorded in John 13: 34, 35; and in view of the coincidence of the most reliable, ancient history, immediately succeeding the apostolic age, showing that the salutation was observed between the supper and the communion, we therefore think



it not best to recommend the change asked for in the foregoing queries.

Daniel Hays,  
L. W. Teeter.

The minority report was accepted.

### QUERIES.

1. Inasmuch as there is great inconsistency and much trouble and dissatisfaction in our beloved Brotherhood because of a growing dissatisfaction with Annual Meeting's rulings as pertains to the dress question, therefore we, the Claar congregation, of Middle District of Pennsylvania, do petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting, so to change or modify her decisions as to remove the dissatisfaction and bring about a condition of things that will maintain the principle of plainness and preserve more union and harmony and consistency in our beloved Fraternity.

Answer: We do not feel to make any change, but urge the elders and housekeepers to teach nonconformity to the world more fully and labor in union and harmony for peace and love in the general Brotherhood.

2. We, the members of the Wolf Creek church, ask Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to have Art. 19 of 1874 reconsidered, and grant a church the right, when a member resides in her territory six months, refusing or neglecting to present a letter of membership, and violates the precepts or principles of the Gospel, as understood and defined by the Brotherhood in her Annual Meeting, to investigate and try the case.

Placed in the hands of the following committee to report next year: T. F. Imler, S. F. Sanger, D. Hays.

3. District meeting of Northern Indiana requests Annual Meeting to properly define the duties of Annual Meeting Secretary, and, further, he shall be a member of the committee of arrangements, to advise and assist said committee in formulating and executing plans for holding Annual Meeting.

Placed in the hands of the following committee to report to next Annual Meeting: P. S. Miller, Geo. L. Studebaker, I. W. Taylor.

4. We ask the district meeting of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, to petition Annual Meeting of 1906, to appoint a committee of three to draft and offer for adoption a plan that will enable the churches of the Brotherhood hereafter to elect all ministers and deacons by the majority of the votes cast.



Placed in the hands of the following committee to report next year: J. H. Moore, S. F. Sanger, J. A. Dove.

5. (a) We, the sisters of the Grundy County church, knowing that the Brethren in the beginning of our church gave the sisters the same privilege that the brethren enjoyed in acknowledging Christ as their head in the breaking of the bread and passing the cup, as they were commanded, "This do in remembrance of me," Luke 22: 19, and we sisters, seeing that we have made the same covenant with God in Christ Jesus that the brethren have made, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to grant us the same privilege in the breaking of bread and passing the cup that the brethren enjoy in fulfilling the Word of the Lord, 1 Cor. 10: 16. (Passed by Grundy County church.)

(b) We, the Surrey church, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting of North Dakota, Northern Minnesota and Assiniboia, Canada, to permit the sisters to break bread and to pass the cup at communion services.

Answer: We recommend that these papers be placed in the hands of a committee of five to investigate the matter of breaking of bread by the sisters,

1. As to its scriptural authority.

2. As to its agreement with the practice of the primitive church.

3. As it relates to the practice of the church during the past two hundred years, and report to the Annual Meeting.

Committee: E. B. Hoff, H. C. Early, A. G. Crosswhite, J. E. Miller, D. C. Flory.

6. To the district meeting of North Dakota, Northern Minnesota and Assiniboia, Canada, greeting: Inasmuch as the cause of Christ is suffering in our beloved Brotherhood for the want of proper support of the ministry, we, the members of the Berthold church, North Dakota, petition Annual Meeting of 1906, through district meeting, to devise a plan or method by which the pastors and evangelists of our church shall receive a gospel support (1 Cor. 9: 14 and 1 Tim. 5: 17, 18) that they may give themselves wholly to the work (1 Tim. 4: 13-15).

Answer: That the paper be put in the hands of the following committee to report a plan to next Annual Meeting: P. R. Keltner, J. C. Murray, J. S. Mohler.

7. The Grand Valley church, Colorado, petitions Annual Meeting, through district meeting of Northwestern Kansas and Northern Colorado: Whereas in some of the schools conducted by the Brethren the principles of our church are



continually being violated, and such schools are constantly becoming worse, affecting the surrounding churches and even threatening our entire Brotherhood, the elders appointed to visit Brethren schools being, for want of authority, unable to remedy the evil:

Therefore we petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting,—

(1) That each school conducted by Brethren shall be under the moral and religious care of the elders of the district in which such school is located, and the elders of that district shall have full authority and shall set and keep in order the members connected with the school or schools in their State district, and shall be responsible to Annual Meeting for the discharge of their duty.

(2) Annual Meeting shall appoint one faithful elder for a term of three years for each school conducted by Brethren, whose duty it shall be to report to Standing Committee annually the moral and spiritual condition of such school. If, for any cause, the elders of a State district fail to keep the school under their care, in order, then the elder appointed by Annual Meeting for said school shall call to his aid two other of the above-named elders appointed by Annual Meeting for schools, and these elders shall have full authority to set in order the members connected with those schools, and their expenses shall be paid by Annual Meeting. Any decisions of Annual Meeting conflicting with the above are hereby repealed.

Answer: Placed in the hands of the school committee.

8. The Grand Valley church, Colorado, petitions Annual Meeting, through district meeting of Northwestern Kansas and Northern Colorado: As the word "German" in our church name, "German Baptist Brethren," is no longer applicable to us, as a denomination, but is misleading and in many places detrimental to our church work, and since there is another denomination by the name of German Baptists, thus creating confusion.

Therefore we ask Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to drop the word "German" from our church name.

Answer: The question of name is referred to the following committee to report to Annual Meeting of 1908: D. L. Miller, W. R. Deeter, I. N. H. Beahm.

9. We, the McPherson church, petition Annual Meeting of 1906, through district meeting of Southwestern Kansas and Southern Colorado, to urge that each member in the church tithe, and



thus enable the church to carry on the work of saving the lost more effectively. See Lev. 27: 30; Heb. 7: 4-6; 1 Cor. 16: 2.

Answer: Moved that this query be spread on the minutes for one year, and in the meantime the brethren be encouraged to discuss tithing in our publications.—Passed.

10. Larned church petitions Annual Meeting through district meeting to authorize the Brethren Publishing House to publish a membership book somewhat after the following plan, and urge that each congregation use the book in making their records: 1. Name and address. 2. Official position. 3. How received—Date of (1) Baptism; (2) Reclaimed; (3) Letter, etc. 4. How Disowned—Date Disowned: (1) By Letter; (2) By Death; (3) By Expulsion. 5. Blanks.

Answer: Referred to the Examining Committee of Brethren Publishing House.

11. The First District of India ask Annual Conference to allow the missionaries to vote at the district meeting.

Answer: All the missionaries in India appointed by the General Conference shall have the right to vote at the district meeting. Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Request granted.

#### **Requests of the General Missionary and Tract Committee.**

1. We ask Annual Meeting to authorize the publication in book form of all the minutes of Annual Meeting of the last nine years in connection with the Revised Minutes.

Answer: The following committee was appointed to classify the minutes of the last nine years with the Revised Minutes, and the classification to be published by the Brethren Publishing House: S. F. Sanger, D. L. Miller and L. W. Teeter.

2. Inasmuch as there is an inclination to solicit the general Brotherhood for funds for building meetinghouses and other purposes, which is causing dissatisfaction in some places, as well as interfering with the general mission work of the church, the General Missionary and Tract Committee requests this Annual Meeting to adopt the following plan for securing help:

Whenever help is desired by any congregation or mission point it shall first solicit its own congregation; then by permission of the District Mission Board solicit the district in which the congregaton is located. Then if further help is needed said congregation shall petition the General Missionary and Tract Com-



mittee, the petition first being endorsed by the District Mission Board.

Answer: Request granted.

3. We ask Standing Committee for the privilege of sending a trained nurse to India to assist in our hospital work.

Answer: Request granted.

## REPORTS.

### Report of General Missionary and Tract Committee.

To the General Conference of 1906, assembled at Springfield, Illinois, Greeting:

The past year on the various mission fields occupied by the Brethren has been one of deeper rooting in faith rather than reaching out in branches. In India the workers have devoted much time in teaching and training the members and inspiring them to live a higher and better life. In Denmark and Sweden the church has held her own in numbers and is standing the test of some trials. Brother and Sister Vaniman who had charge were compelled to return to America on account of Brother Vaniman's health. In France and Switzerland faithful efforts have been put forth with good returns in many ways.

Some expenditures during the years in total are as follows:

In India, .....	\$13,766.97
In Denmark and Sweden, .....	1,122.50
In France and Switzerland, .....	2,395.89
Special missions in United States, .....	2,144.44
District Missions, .....	6,025.00
In annuities, .....	11,871.08
In other expenditures, .....	15,269.96

The total assets of the committee are now \$542,373, this being an increase of \$35,542.17 during the year. This has come in mainly by direct contributions.

The development of the Publishing House in all its avenues has been a matter of great satisfaction to all those directly connected with it. The church is giving the business a support that is encouraging to all those loyal to the Faith for which she stands and the House is the mouthpiece. A continuation of this hearty support will result in still greater good for the Master.

Perhaps a fourth, not over that number of the church, responded to the call for a dollar per member for missions this year. The other three-fourths had the means but were indifferent to the plea. Most of them rested in this indifference because the leaders of



the flock were unconcerned. This is fully proven from the fact that some very weak churches financially contributed a dollar or more per member while other churches amply able did little or nothing.

One congregation wanted a query brought to this meeting requiring the members to give the dollar. But this will hardly bring the results. It should be from the heart and not by legal enactment. But if this conference can in any way quicken the hearts of the indifferent, the committee as servants of the Brotherhood will greatly appreciate the help.

The new year is full of its duties and responsibilities, and as the servants of the church in this responsible place the committee goes forth knowing that each victory as well as year gone by is that much towards the final victory through Jesus Christ the Lord.

H. C. Early, Virginia.

S. F. Sanger, Indiana.

D. L. Miller, Illinois.

A. B. Barnhart, Maryland.

John Zuck, Iowa.

#### Report of Auditing Committee.

To the Annual Meeting of 1906:

We, your committee, appointed to audit the books and accounts of the General Missionary and Tract Committee, including those of the Brethren Publishing House, beg to submit the following report:

We verified all the additions in the various account books, checked the postings to the ledger and verified the results in the financial statement herewith submitted to you and found the same correct.

We examined with more than usual care all the securities held by the Committee and found them all right. All records have been carefully made and all expenditures properly accounted for.

Lewis R. Peifer, Springfield, Ohio; Aaron L. Clair, Mt. Morris, Ill.

Report accepted.

Report of Annual Meeting Treasurer for the Year Ending April 1, 1906, R. E. Arnold, Treasurer.

#### Receipts.

April 1, 1905, Balance on hand, .....\$183.36



March 16, 1906, Proceeds of A. M. Minutes, 1905, .....	\$218.19
April 2, 1906, Rebate from D. Hays (Overpaid), .....	7.00
Total, .....	\$408.55

### Expenditures.

#### 1905.

June 3, Paid D. F. Hoover, committee work, Loraine, Ill., .....	\$23.65
June 5, Paid J. H. Wright, visiting North Manchester College, ..	2.50
June 5, Paid Urias Shick, visiting McPherson College, .....	15.00
June 5, Paid Michael Keller, visiting McPherson College, .....	12.00
June 5, Paid Wm. Davis, visiting McPherson College, .....	20.00
June 6, Paid P. R. Keltner, committee work, Loraine, Ill., ....	19.32
June 6, Paid Geo. L. Studebaker, visiting West Dayton church, ..	12.00
June 6, Paid Peter Garber, visiting Bridgewater College, ....	4.50
June 6, Paid H. C. Early, visiting Bridgewater College, .....	2.50
June 5, Paid Geo. L. Studebaker, visiting North Manchester Col.,	10.00
June 5, Paid L. T. Holsinger, balance visiting West Dayton church, .....	4.00
June 5, Paid C. C. Price, visiting Mt. Morris College, .....	5.00
June 6, Paid W. R. Deeter, visiting North Manchester College, ..	5.25
June 6, Paid Jesse Zigler, committee work, Eastern Pa., .....	5.00
June 6, Paid D. Hays, committee work, Eastern Pennsylvania, ..	7.00
June 7, Paid G. N. Falkenstein, incorporating board of trustees in Pennsylvania (Part of bill only), .....	20.00

#### 1906.

March 16, Paid G. N. Falkenstein, balance due, incorporating board of trustees, .....	32.90
March 16, Paid David A. Stayer, visiting Juniata College, .....	7.50
March 16, Paid Thos. B. Maddocks, visiting Juniata College, ..	10.14
March 16, Paid D. Hays, committee, Eastern Pennsylvania, ..	42.72
March 16, Paid P. S. Miller, committee work, Eastern Pa., ....	43.19
March 16, Paid L. T. Holsinger, committee work, Eastern Pa., ..	63.00
Committee work, Dayton, Ohio, .....	2.50
March 16, Paid I. D. Parker, committee work, West Dayton, O., ..	25.88
Postage used in correspondence, .....	.40
Balance on hand April 1, 1906, .....	7.60
	\$408.55

The foregoing report was examined by us and found correct.  
Lewis R. Peifer, Aaron L. Clair, Committee.

Accepted.

I will say in connection with the above report that there are bills due and authorized to amount to about \$50, but not sufficient funds to pay the same. In all probability bills will be authorized here at the conference for about \$200, as is usually the custom. No revenue to meet same until April 1, 1907. Some plan should be made to supply the deficiency. R. E. Arnold, Treas.

Answer: 1. We recommend that the Annual Meeting treas-



urer be and is hereby authorized to make, by borrowing or otherwise, a temporary arrangement to meet this shortage for the current year and the next succeeding.

2. We recommend the appointment of a committee of three brethren by this Annual Meeting whose duty it shall be to prepare a plan whereby there can be raised sufficient funds to meet all expenses annually. Said plan to be brought in the regular way, as all queries are, to the Annual Meeting of 1907 for adoption.

Passed.

Committee: R. E. Arnold, I. B. Trout, L. W. Teeter.

#### **Missionaries Approved for Foreign Fields.**

F. H. Crumpacker, Kansas.

Anna N. Crumpacker, Kansas.

Emma Horning, South Dakota.

Ella Miller, Indiana.

Josephine Powell, Kansas.

C. H. Brubaker, Illinois.

#### **APPOINTMENTS.**

Committee on Credentials.—John Heckman, D. B. Eby and David Bowman.

Committee on Resolutions.—I. N. H. Beahm, J. A. Dove and Chas. H. Hillery.

Sunday School Advisory Committee.—C. D. Bonsack, time expires; S. J. Miller appointed.

Tract Examining Committee.—A. C. Wieand.

Treasurer of Annual Meeting.—R. E. Arnold.

General Missionary and Tract Committee.—S. F. Sanger, time expires; L. W. Teeter appointed. A. B. Barnhart, resigned; C. D. Bonsack appointed for the unexpired one year of term.

Gospel Messenger Advisory Committee.—Edward Frantz, time expires; C. M. Yearout appointed.

Auditing Committee.—R. C. Hollinger, time expired; R. E. Berger appointed.

School Visiting Committees.—Juniata College, T. B. Madocks reappointed; Bridgewater College, Peter Garber reappointed; Mt. Morris College, M. S. Newcomer reappointed; McPherson College, Geo. S. Manon reappointed, A. C. Daggett appointed to fill unexpired term of A. D. Sollenberger; North Manchester College, Geo. L. Studebaker reappointed; Lordsburg College, W. J. Thomas appointed.

Annual Meeting Railroad Committee.—D. L. Miller, Mt. Morris, Ill., foreman of committee; J. G. Royer, Mt. Morris, Ill., Western Association; Isaac Frantz, Pleasant Hill, Ohio, Central Asso-



ciation; E. W. Stoner, Union Bridge, Md., Eastern Association; P. S. Miller, Roanoke, Va., Southeastern Association; W. C. Hanawalt, Lordsburg, Cal., Southwestern Association; D. B. Eby, Sunnyside, Wash., Northwestern Association.

Committees to Churches.

Eastern Pennsylvania: L. T. Holsinger, D. Hays and P. S. Miller.

Accident church, Accident, Md.: C. G. Lint, Jeremiah Thomas, D. B. Arnold, T. J. Kolb and Albert Hollinger.

Warrensburg church, Mo.: L. T. Holsinger, Geo. Manon, Wm. Davis.

Astoria church, Illinois: Frank Fisher, J. H. Neher and C. C. Price.

Ft. Wayne, Indiana: D. F. Hoover, S. M. Smith and J. C. Bright.

West Dayton, Ohio: I. W. Taylor, Frank Fisher and D. F. Hoover.

Markleysburg church, Md.: G. S. Arnold, Z. Annon and J. H. Longanecker.

Mississinewa church, Indiana: I. L. Berkey, L. H. Dickey and H. W. Kreighbaum.

## LETTERS OF GREETING.

### 1. From Sweden.

To the Brethren's Annual Meeting in America:

The grace of God and peace be with you. Again has a year of labor closed for us, and it is with mingled feelings that we are assembled at this time in Limhamn. In truth have we enjoyed much good during the past year, and many are the blessings that we have received. Therefore will we give thanks unto him who is able to make us fit for his abode in heaven for all the good gifts both temporal and spiritual which we have received until this hour. We must also say that it is a great loss for us that our dear brother and sister Vaniman were compelled to leave us on account of ill-health. Their places are vacant and the loss is felt in our hearts, and we can only express to them and you all, dear brethren and sisters, our heartfelt thanks for your sacrifices, and may God, who is able to give us much more than we are able to ask or think, reward you all for the sake of Jesus Christ. May the grace and goodness of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you and us, and may you enjoy the richest blessings during your meeting.



Signed in behalf of the district meeting, Eld. A. Anderson, Eld. P. Jönsson, Eld. H. O. Weiler; J. M. Risberg, Secretary.

Limhamn, Sweden, April 16, 1906.

#### **Reply to Sweden.**

To the Brethren and Sisters in Sweden:

The Brethren assembled in Annual Meeting of 1906, at Springfield, Ill., U. S. A., send greetings in the Lord and wish grace to all our Father's children of like precious faith in Sweden. We have received your message of greeting and assurances of your love and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and we praise God for your faithfulness and zeal, rejoicing in the remembrance of our fellowship with you in the Gospel. We sympathize with you in the loss of brother and sister Vaniman, and believe that the Lord directs in all things, and will abundantly supply all your needs. And we pray God ever to guard us all, both you and us, from stumbling, and to keep us blameless in spirit, soul and body until the coming of the Lord, that he may then take us and present us faultless before the presence of the Father with exceeding joy. With much love we beg to remain ever faithfully and fraternally yours in Christ Jesus. Signed in behalf of Annual Meeting.

S. F. Sanger, Moderator; I. B. Trout, Writing Clerk.

#### **2. From Denmark.**

To the Annual Conference of 1906, Greeting:

We, in district meeting assembled at Sindal, July 30, 1905, have no query to present this year, but desire to hereby send you our greetings and expression of our love and appreciation, for all the interest that the Brotherhood in America has shown us, both spiritual and temporal, up to the present time. We are still trying to do the best we can to have the Gospel forwarded, and ask an interest in your prayers; we wish to have your sympathy, and be remembered by you in the future. Our prayer is that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may be with you in your meeting with his blessings; and that all in the Conference may be filled and led with the Holy Ghost, and your work in Jesus' name may result in much good to those present, as well as for the whole Brotherhood. In behalf of the Brethren churches in Denmark. Signed by elders:

C. C. Eskildsen, P. C. Poulsen, C. Hansen, Secretary.

#### **Reply to Denmark.**

To the Brethren and Sisters of Denmark, Greeting in the Lord.

With much Christian love we have received your message of greeting, and rejoice that you remain faithful to the Lord Jesus



Christ. We pray that God may guide you in all your labors and sufferings for his sake. That his blessing may be upon all you do in his name, and that you may ever remain faithful and loyal, not shrinking back from any sacrifice for the sake of Christ, and never be ashamed of his Gospel as it was delivered to us by them that heard him. With much love in the Lord, we remain ever faithfully and fraternally yours in Christ Jesus. Signed in behalf of the Annual Meeting.

S. F. Sanger, Moderator; I. B. Trout, Writing Clerk.

### 3. From Switzerland and France.

We, the members and workers in this district, send to the Brethren in conference assembled our sincere brotherly greetings, with renewed thanks for continued interest manifested and help liberally granted that the planting of primitive Christianity may meet with success and precious souls won to the Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep. We pray the Lord to bless and pour upon you an abundant measure of his Spirit that all your deliberations may tend to the glory of God and to the advancement of his kingdom at home and abroad.

G. J. Fercken, A. Pellet.

April 28, 1906.

### Reply to Switzerland and France.

To the Brethren and Sisters of Switzerland and France.

In behalf of the church in America, the Brethren assembled in the Annual Conference, send greetings in Christ to our beloved fellow-members of the brotherhood of God in France and Switzerland. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit ever be yours. We pray that the Lord may ever keep you faithful, that he may guide you continually and completely, and that the Father's richest blessings may attend all your labors in his name and sufferings for his sake. With much love in the Lord, we again greet you as affectionately and faithfully in Christ. Signed in behalf of Conference.

S. F. Sanger, Moderator; I. B. Trout, Writing Clerk.

### CALLS FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF 1907.

Middle Iowa; North Dakota, Northern Minnesota and Canada; California and Arizona. Granted to California.

### RESOLUTIONS.

We, the Brethren in Annual Conference assembled at Spring-



field, Ill., in the year of our Lord 1906, do pass the following resolutions:

**Resolved,**

1. That we thank our bountiful and loving heavenly Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, for the plenitude of his blessings.

2. That we thank the Committee of Arrangements with all their subcommittees and helpers for their ample and efficient service.

3. That we thank the Board of Management of the Illinois State Fair Association for granting the free use of their beautiful and commodious fair grounds and magnificent equipments.

4. That we thank the citizens of Springfield for their hospitality, and the Ministerial Association of Springfield for their courtesy in opening their churches to our ministry.

5. That we thank the press of the city for their ample and cordial recognition of our people, and work through their columns.

6. That we thank the street-car company and various railway companies for their kindness and excellent transportation service.

7. To the Springfield Transportation Association for their prompt and excellent service.

8. To the police force for faithful and helpful service.

9. That a copy of these resolutions be printed in the newspapers of the city of Springfield.

Committee: I. N. H. Beahm, C. S. Hilary, J. A. Dove.

**STANDING COMMITTEE FOR 1906.**

1. North and South Carolina and Georgia, .....S. P. Jones
2. Tennessee, .....A. E. Nead
3. First District of Virginia, .....P. S. Miller, Chas. M. Yearout
4. Second District of Virginia, .....H. C. Early, Daniel Hays
5. First District of West Virginia, .....D. B. Arnold
6. Second District of West Virginia, .....D. W. Kirk
7. Eastern Maryland, .....E. A. Brunner
8. Middle Maryland, .....A. B. Barnhart
9. Western Maryland, .....S. K. Fike
10. Eastern Pennsylvania, .....J. H. Longanecker, I. W. Taylor
11. Southern Pennsylvania, .....C. L. Baker
12. Middle Pennsylvania, .....J. B. Brumbaugh
13. Western Pennsylvania, .....D. H. Walker
14. Southern Ohio, .....J. Calvin Bright, Jesse Stutsman
15. Northeastern Ohio, .....James Murray



16. Northwestern Ohio, .....D. D. Thomas
  17. Southern Indiana, .....L. W. Teeter
  18. Middle Indiana, .....Frank Fisher
  19. Northern Indiana, .....S. F. Sanger
  20. Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, .....I. B. Trout
  21. Southern Illinois, .....Solomon Bucklew
  22. Southern Missouri and Northwestern Arkansas, ..J. B. Hylton
  23. Middle Missouri, .....M. S. Mohler
  24. Northern Missouri, .....John Mason
  25. First District of Arkansas and Southeastern Missouri, .....  
.....J. W. Gephart
  26. Southern Iowa, .....Peter Brower
  27. Middle Iowa, .....J. Q. Goughnour
  28. Northern Iowa, Southern Minnesota and South Dakota, ....  
.....O. J. Beaver
  29. North Dakota, Northern Minnesota and Canada, ..D. M. Shorb
  30. Michigan, .....A. W. Hawbaker
  31. Nebraska, .....George Mishler
  32. Northeastern Kansas, .....R. F. McCune
  33. Southeastern Kansas, .....E. E. Joyce
  34. Northwestern Kansas and Northern Colorado, ...D. A. Crist
  35. Southwestern Kansas and Southern Colorado, ....S. J. Miller
  36. Texas and Southwestern Louisiana, .....M. H. Peters
  37. Oklahoma and Indian Territory, .....A. J. Smith
  38. California and Arizona, .....J. W. Trostle
  39. Oregon, Washington and Idaho, .....L. E. Keltner
  40. Denmark, .....
  41. Sweden, .....
  42. First District of Switzerland and France, .....
  43. First District of India, .....
- S. F. Sanger, Moderator; H. C. Early, Reading Clerk; I. B. Trout, Writing Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1907.

Los Angeles, Cal.

After devotional exercises, conducted by Eld. S. F. Sanger, the following organization was announced: Eld. L. T. Holsinger, of Indiana, Moderator; Eld. John Heckman, of Illinois, Reading Clerk; Eld. S. N. McCann, of India, Writing Clerk; J. W. Lear, of Illinois, Doorkeeper, and W. C. Hanawalt, of California, Assistant.



## UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

### Church Certificates.

1. We, the members of the Wolf Creek church, ask Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to have Art. 19 of 1874 reconsidered, and grant a church the right, when a member resides in her territory six months, refusing or neglecting to present a letter of membership, and violates the precepts or principles of the Gospel, as understood and defined by the Brotherhood, in her Annual Meeting, to investigate and try the case.

Placed in the hands of the following committee to report next year: T. F. Imler, S. F. Sanger, D. Hays.

#### Report of Committee.

1st. It is the duty of a member or members on removing from a congregation to ask for a certificate of membership. If they fail to ask for one, then it is the duty of the church to supply them with a letter of membership, when there are no legal objections to it. If members already live near to, or in removing are close to the local church line, they may, by mutual consent of both congregations concerned, hold their membership in the other congregation where they do not reside.

2nd. Members should present their certificates of membership immediately after locating in a congregation. In case they fail to do so within six months from its date, the certificate becomes void and should be renewed by the congregation granting it if so requested by the congregation in which they live.

3rd. Churches shall not grant letters of membership to, nor accept letters of membership from, members who are living in violation of the Gospel as defined by Annual Meeting (see "Revised Minutes," page 121, Art. 2, 1886).

4th. Members shall be under the spiritual care of, and become amenable to, the congregation in which they reside for any and all violations committed during such residence, whether they have presented a church certificate or not.

5th. All former decisions in conflict with the foregoing are hereby revoked.—T. F. Imler, S. F. Sanger, D. Hays.

Answer: Passed.

#### Report of Committee to Provide a Plan for Raising Funds for the Annual Meeting Treasury.

2. We, the committee appointed by Annual Meeting of 1906 to prepare a plan whereby there can be raised sufficient funds to



meet all expenses of the Brotherhood, which are paid by the Annual Meeting treasury, recommend the following:

That the Annual Meeting require each State District Treasurer to pay, on or before July 1, of each year, to the Annual Meeting Treasurer, a sum equal to one cent for each member in the State District.

R. E. Arnold,  
I. B. Trout,  
L. W. Teeter.

Passed.

### **The Duties of Annual Meeting Secretary.**

3. District meeting of Northern Indiana requests Annual Meeting to properly define the duties of Annual Meeting secretary, and, further, he shall be a member of the committee of arrangements, to advise and assist said committee in formulating and executing plans for holding Annual Meeting.

Placed in the hands of the following committee to report to next Annual Meeting: P. S. Miller, Geo. L. Studebaker, I. W. Taylor.

#### **Report of the Committee.**

1. To record the number, sizes, plans and specifications of the various buildings required, and plan of locating each upon the grounds selected, for the accommodation of the meeting, and the kinds and amount of each kind of all material required in the construction of the same.

2. To keep a record of each kind and number of each kind of all the fixtures, fittings and furnishings necessary properly to equip and make ready each building for the purpose it is to be used.

3. To keep an itemized record of all the supplies of any and every kind used during the meeting and also the approximate amount of each kind of supplies consumed each day.

4. To keep an itemized account of all the money received and disbursed in the preparation for, during and to the conclusion of the meeting.

5. To furnish without reserve to the Committees of Arrangements all information recorded or collected.

6. To meet with the Committee on Location if invited by them, or by any properly authorized party or parties.

7. That he shall be an advisory member of the Committee of Arrangements, and meet with them as often as they suggest his presence during the time of preparation for the meeting, to be



present and advise with and assist the committee to the best of his ability from the beginning to the close of the meeting.

8. To consider himself responsible to the Annual Meeting for a faithful performance of all his duties set forth above.—P. S. Miller, Geo. L. Studebaker, I. W. Taylor.

Passed.

#### Program for Annual Meeting.

4. Carlisle church petitions district meeting to petition Annual Meeting to change day of opening Annual Meeting from Tuesday to Wednesday, so as to give one day for Christian Workers, educational and district mission work, and such other work as may be of interest to the church.

Answer: Spread on the Minutes for consideration one year. Put in the hands of the following committee to report to next Annual Meeting: D. N. Eller, Manly Deeter, Galen B. Royer.

Answer by Committee:

We recommend,

1. That the business session of the Conference begin on Monday morning instead of Tuesday morning.

2. That the customary meetings preceding the business session shall be held before the Sunday preceding the business session, in the following order: Sunday School, Christian Workers, Educational, District Mission Boards, and General Missionary and Tract Committee.

3. That a conference program committee of three, one east, one center, one west, shall be nominated and perpetuated through action of the Standing Committee and Annual Meeting in such a manner that one member be elected each year. whose duties shall be

(a) To arrange for all sessions to be held on the Annual Meeting grounds from the beginning of the general gathering to the close of the business session, save the business session.

(b) To allot the amount of time for each special session supplying its own program.

(c) To secure the best suitable talent for sermons, lectures or addresses for evenings and on Sunday, and as near as possible publish the complete program at least six weeks before opening of Conference.

(d) To perform all other duties that would rightly fall to them and develop the highest spiritual interest of the Conference gathering.



We would recommend that this report be spread on the minutes and deferred one year.—D. N. Eller, Manly Deeter, Galen B. Royer.

To be spread on minutes for one year for consideration.

#### School Papers.

5. (a) Good Hope church, Sterling, Colo., in regular quarterly council, asks Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to have the General Missionary and Tract Committee to examine all text-books used by the Brethren schools and prohibit their use if not in accordance with the doctrine of the Bible and German Baptist Brethren church.

(b) Cedar church petitions Annual Meeting, through the district meeting, that the present system of visiting committees to our schools be discontinued, and that a board of five capable and well-established elders be chosen to pass upon all questions of a moral and religious character growing out of the management of such schools. Said board to report annually to the Annual Meeting, through the Standing Committee, their findings, and that all schools authorized by Annual Meeting shall make, through their president, annual report to said Boards of the moral and spiritual progress, and, when deemed necessary by this board, it shall make personal visits to any or all of said schools, and the expenses thereof be provided for by the Annual Meeting.

(c) Mineral Creek church petitions Annual Meeting, through the district meeting of Middle Missouri, to arrange for the ownership and control of the Brethren's schools by the church; and for this purpose appoint a committee of seven brethren to arrange a plan to embrace: First, Establishment; Second, Endowment; Third, Government, according to the principles of the Brethren church; Fourth, Appointment of trustees, faculties, etc., in such a manner that the true sentiment of the Brotherhood may be taught and practiced in the schools; Fifth, Curriculum; Sixth, Such other matters as may be essential to the successful operation of the school. Furthermore requested that at least four of the committee be brethren who have never been officially connected with the schools.

(d) Whereas, Annual Meeting, in her care for the moral and religious welfare of her schools, has appointed school committees, carefully outlining their duty (see "Revised Minutes of Annual Meeting," page 149, paragraphs 1 and 2 under Art. 14; also 4th paragraph on page 150), and,

Whereas, in the face of all the foregoing, some one, or some



of our schools are receiving members into the church allowing them to continue in all their former fashions, sisters wearing hats, etc.; student members in many instances return to their home church unreconciled to the established rules of the church, thus scattering confusion in the home church, and in many instances they hold their membership in their school church;

Therefore, we, the North Star church, ask Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to call upon Standing Committee to exercise greater care in receiving the reports of these school committees and adopt such measures as, in her judgment, will lead those committees and the church in which such schools are located to do their duty as defined in the minutes referred to.

(e) Inasmuch as the athletics in our schools and colleges is looked upon with concern by many of our brethren, therefore, we ask Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to decide:

First, whether the intercollegiate contest games of baseball, football, and such like games, are consistent with the principles as held by the church.

Second, whether it is considered right for the management of these schools known as Brethren schools, to permit the use of such intercollegiate contests as a source of revenue, or to use them as a means of discipline in the government of said schools.

(f) Inasmuch as most of our brethren are engaged in agriculture and stockraising, and many wish their children educated to that end, and,

Inasmuch as our brethren are compelled to send their children to our State institutions to obtain such an education, Rockingham church asks Annual Meeting of 1905 through district meeting of Northern Missouri, to pass on the advisability of our schools (at least two or more) adopting a course in agriculture, animal husbandry, etc., to fill this very urgent need.

Answer: The above queries were placed in the hands of the following committee, to report to Annual Meeting of 1906: H. C. Early, S. F. Sanger, L. D. Mohler, Jeremiah Thomas, D. G. Wine.

Your committee has a report in progress, but it is not ready to be submitted, and it will not be ready for this Conference.—H. C. Early, Levi D. Mohler, S. F. Sanger.

Report accepted and committee continued.

Additional School Paper.

The Grand Valley church, Colorado, petitions Annual Meeting,



through district meeting of Northwestern Kansas and Northern Colorado: Whereas, in some of the schools conducted by the Brethren the principles of our church are continually being violated, and such schools are constantly becoming worse, affecting the surrounding churches and even threatening our entire Brotherhood, the elders appointed to visit Brethren schools being, for want of authority, unable to remedy the evil:

Therefore we petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting,—

(1) That each school conducted by Brethren shall be under the moral and religious care of the elders in the district in which such school is located, and the elders of that district shall have full authority and shall set and keep in order the members connected with the school or schools in their State districts, and shall be responsible to Annual Meeting for the discharge of their duty.

(2) Annual Meeting shall appoint one faithful elder for a term of three years for each school conducted by Brethren whose duty it shall be to report to Standing Committee annually the moral and spiritual condition of such school. If, for any cause, the elders of a State district fail to keep the school under their care in order, then the elder appointed by Annual Meeting for said school shall call to his aid two other of the above-named elders appointed by Annual Meeting for schools, and these elders shall have full authority to set in order the members connected with those schools, and their expenses shall be paid by Annual Meeting. Any decisions of Annual Meeting conflicting with the above are hereby repealed.

Answer: Placed in the hands of the school committee.

Report spread on the Minutes for one year.

#### Report of Committee.

##### I. Local and State Management.

1. That the State Districts in which the colleges are located shall acquire the ownership of the college property in their respective districts by donation or purchase, or both, if at all practicable. Two or more State Districts may unite in the ownership of the several college properties.

2. That the college properties, thus owned, shall be held by several Boards of Trustees, appointed by their respective State Districts—their number and term of office to be determined by the several districts. These Boards shall be composed of brethren who are alive to the educational work of the church and strong in the doctrines and practices of the church.



3. That the trustees shall hold in trust for the church the several college properties, guard carefully the titles of the same, and shall manage, improve, and, when wisdom approves it, may lease them to brethren for school purposes; and shall secure endowments, bequests and donations, and shall take care of such funds in a manner approved by the several State Districts; and shall encourage sentiment favorable to Christian education by educational meetings, and otherwise; and shall make written report, annually, to their several district meetings of the financial and moral condition of the respective colleges.

4. That the trustees shall choose the presidents of the several colleges and agree with them upon salary, and each president shall employ the other members of his faculty subject to the approval of the trustees; and only such brethren and sisters to be employed as teachers and managers who stand for true Christian education, and who are in sympathy with the teachings and government of the church.

5. That lines determining the territory in which the several colleges shall have right to solicit for students and money shall be established by the trustees as soon as practicable; and if they fail to establish these lines satisfactorily, the question shall be referred to the Educational Board, hereinafter provided, for final decision.

6. That government as to church relationship and discipline shall vest in the local churches in which the several colleges are located, and all the teachers and students who are members of the church shall be required to place their membership with said churches.

7. That the trustees shall make written report annually to said Educational Board of the condition of the several colleges on the following points:

(a) Moral and spiritual condition.

(b) Attitude of teachers and students as to the distinctive doctrines of the church.

(c) Courses of study.

(d) Expulsion or suspension of students, if any, and for what cause.

(e) Finances, receipts and expenditures, amount of indebtedness, etc.

(f) Special religious services, such as Special Bible Terms, series of sermons, lectures, etc., and such other information as the said Educational Board may require.



8. That the present district visiting committees shall be discontinued.

9. That all appeals from the several Boards of Trustees shall be referred to said Educational Board.

## II. General Management.

1. That the Standing Committee of Annual Meeting shall appoint an Educational Board of seven brethren, to be confirmed by the open Conference, for a term of five years each, except those first appointed, two of whom shall serve five years, two four years, two three years, and one two years, respectively, as indicated by Standing Committee.

2. That three members of the Educational Board shall be chosen from the colleges, and four shall be chosen who are not connected with the colleges; that the majority of the board shall be ordained elders and that they shall organize by electing a chairman, a secretary and treasurer from their own number.

3. That the Educational Board shall be composed of brethren who are favorable to Christian education, broad-minded and who are working faithfully in harmony with the principles of church government as defined by Annual Meeting.

4. That the Educational Board shall meet annually, or oftener if circumstances require it, and that it shall visit in a body each college once a year, or oftener if conditions demand it, or at the discretion of the Board, it may appoint three or more of its number to discharge this duty.

5. That all questions arising as to text-books, courses of study, athletics, church government, morals and religion, in connection with the several colleges shall be referred to the Educational Board for decision.

6. That the Educational Board shall adopt uniform courses of study in the several colleges as far as practicable, and shall provide for agricultural and industrial education as the demand for such training grows, when means are secured for such purposes.

7. That the Educational Board shall have authority to make its decisions operative, and all appeals from its decisions shall be made to Standing Committee of Annual Meeting.

8. That the rights, duties, and powers of the Educational Board and local trustees shall be administered in conformity with the established principles of the church's government.

9. That the Educational Board shall have the same moral and spiritual supervision over the several colleges whose property is not owned by state districts, but recognized by Annual Meeting, as those owned by state districts and that such colleges shall



make full written report annually, to said Educational Board.

10. That the Educational Board shall make written report annually of the condition of the several colleges to Standing Committee of Annual Meeting, the report to be at the disposal of the Standing Committee.

11. That donations, bequests and endowments for educational purposes may be made to the Educational Board, such funds to be used as the donors direct, and if the donors shall fail to direct, its use shall be determined by the Educational Board.

12. That the Educational Board shall be allowed \$—— per day for actual time; and expenses incurred in its work, these expenses to be paid by Annual Meeting Treasurer out of a fund provided by Annual Meeting for this purpose.

13. That all former decisions in conflict with this report are hereby repealed.

Committee: H. C. Early, S. F. Sanger, David G. Wine, Jeremiah Thomas.

Report spread on Minutes for one year.

#### **Plan for Electing Ministers and Deacons.**

6. We ask the district meeting of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, to petition Annual Meeting of 1906, to appoint a committee of three to draft and offer for adoption a plan that will enable the churches of the Brotherhood hereafter to elect all ministers and deacons by the majority of the votes cast.

Placed in the hands of the following committee to report next year: J. H. Moore, S. F. Sanger, J. A. Dove.

#### **Report of Committee.**

For electing ministers and deacons by a majority of all votes cast, we recommend the following:

1. After instructing the members regarding the New Testament qualifications for the officers to be elected, let the voice of the church be taken in the usual way. If a brother does not receive a majority of all votes cast, including those voting no choice, so inform the church, and then proceed with the ballot system.

2. Let each member, by written ballot, read openly, indicate his or her choice, and thus proceed until one receives the majority of all the votes cast, including those voting "no choice," or until the third ballot is cast.

3. If, by this time, there is no election, and those voting "no choice" do not exceed the highest number of votes cast for any one person, then begin limiting the choice to the few whose com-



bined votes equal the majority of votes cast, and so continue by ballot, and by reducing the number to be voted for, until one shall have received the majority of all the votes cast. This one shall be declared elected.

4. Unless, however, the final two shall stand equal in the closing ballot. In that case both shall be declared elected.

5. Be it further provided, that if at the end of the third ballot those voting "no choice" should exceed the highest number of votes cast for any one person, the election shall be declared off. Otherwise those voting "no choice" shall not be considered after the third ballot.

Committee: J. H. Moore, S. F. Sanger, J. A. Dove.

Report to be spread on Minutes for one year.

#### **Sisters Breaking the Bread and Passing the Cup. . .**

7. (a) We, the sisters of the Grundy County church, knowing that the Brethren in the beginning of our church gave the sisters the same privilege that the brethren enjoy in acknowledging Christ as their head in the breaking of the bread and passing the cup, as they were commanded, "This do in remembrance of me." Luke 22: 19, and we sisters, seeing that we have made the same covenant with God in Christ Jesus that the brethren have made, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to grant us the same privilege in the breaking of bread and passing the cup that the brethren enjoy in fulfilling the Word of the Lord. 1 Cor. 10: 16. (Passed by Grundy County church.)

(b) We, the Surrey church, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting of North Dakota, Northern Minnesota and Assiniboia, Canada, to permit the sisters to break bread and pass the cup at communion services.

Answer: We recommend that these papers be placed in the hands of a committee of five to investigate the matter of breaking bread by the sisters.

1. As to its scriptural authority.

2. As to its agreement with the practice of the primitive church.

3. As it relates to the practice of the church during the past two hundred years, and to report to the Annual Meeting.

Committee: E. B. Hoff, H. C. Early, A. G. Crosswhite, J. E. Miller, D. C. Flory.

Your committee reports as follows: The matter is under investigation but not ready for a report at this meeting.

E. B. Hoff, H. C. Early, D. C. Flory, A. G. Crosswhite.

Report accepted and committee continued.



**Supporting Pastors and Evangelists.**

8. To the district meeting of North Dakota, Northern Minnesota and Assiniboia, Canada, greeting: Inasmuch as the cause of Christ is suffering in our beloved Brotherhood for the want of proper support of the ministry, we, the members of the Berthold church, North Dakota, petition Annual Meeting of 1906, through district meeting, to devise a plan or method by which the pastors and evangelists of our church shall receive a gospel support (1 Cor. 9: 14 and 1 Tim. 5: 17, 18) that they may give themselves wholly to the work (1 Tim. 4: 13-15).

Answer: That the paper be put in the hands of the following committee to report a plan to next Annual Meeting: P. R. Keltner, J. C. Murray, J. S. Mohler.

To Annual Meeting of 1907, Greeting:

We, the members of your committee appointed by Annual Meeting of 1906 to consider a query placed in our hands, asking for a plan to give a gospel support to our pastors and evangelists, beg leave to say that, on account of the importance of the query, we are unable to report to Annual Meeting of 1907, and we kindly ask the Annual Meeting of 1907 to continue our committee another year, that we may consider the query in all its bearings, and report to Annual Meeting of 1908.

P. R. Keltner,  
J. C. Murray  
J. S. Mohler.

Report accepted and committee continued.

**Church Name.**

9. The Grand Valley church, Colorado, petitions Annual Meeting, through district meeting of Northwestern Kansas and Northern Colorado: As the word "German" in our church name, "German Baptist Brethren," is no longer applicable to us, as a denomination, but is misleading and in many places detrimental to our church work, and since there is another denomination by the name of German Baptist, thus creating confusion,

Therefore we ask Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to drop the word "German" from our church name.

Answer: The question of name is referred to the following committee to report to Annual Meeting of 1908: D. L. Miller, W. R. Deeter, I. N. H. Beahm.



### Tithing.

10. We, the McPherson church, petition Annual Meeting of 1906, through district meeting of Southwestern Kansas and Southern Colorado, to urge that each member in the church tithe, and thus enable the church to carry on the work of saving the lost more effectively. See Lev. 27: 30; Heb. 7: 4-6; 1 Cor. 16: 2.

Answer: Moved that this query be spread on the minutes for one year, and in the meantime the brethren be encouraged to discuss tithing in our publications.—Passed.

Answer: This Annual Meeting would encourage the growing spirit of giving, and urge each member prayerfully to study the Word with a view of giving liberally and systematically in the spirit of New Testament teaching according to the method provided in 1 Cor. 16: 2, and 2 Cor. 9: 6, 7, and thereby making it more nearly possible to carry out the loving Master's great command. Matt. 28: 19, 20.

Passed.

### Queries.

1. (a) The Tropico church asks Annual Meeting, through district meeting of California and Arizona, to appoint a committee of seven members, two of whom shall be sisters, to arrange for a bicentennial memorial to be observed on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, June 6th, 7th and 8th, at the next (1908) Annual Meeting, said committee to keep in view the praise and glory of our Father for what he has done through the church.

1. By the faithful pioneer preachers and laity who brought the Gospel from Germany to these United States.

2. By the self-denying ministers and other members who spread the Truth of Christ over the country from Germantown, Pa., to the Pacific coast.

3. By the first foreign missionary effort in Denmark and Sweden, 1875-1884.

4. By the present organized missionary efforts since 1884.

5. By the Sunday schools and Bible schools.

6. By the Old Folks' Homes, Orphanages and Sisters' Aid Societies.

7. By the Publishing House.

We ask this solely to promote the praise of God in all the congregations and to encourage the further extension of this knowledge. 1 Chron. 29: 30; 1 Peter 2: 9, 10.

Passed by district meeting to Annual Meeting.

(b) Silver Creek congregation in regular council assembled



petitions Annual Meeting through district meeting of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin to appoint a committee of five who shall arrange a special program to be given at our next Annual Meeting, setting forth fully the work of the church since its fuller organization in Germany, so that our young people may see how God has been leading us. See Deut. 32: 7-14. We further ask that the addresses and sermons delivered on this occasion be published in book form.

Petition granted and sent to Annual Meeting.

(c) We, the Everett church, petition Annual Meeting through district meeting of Middle Pennsylvania, to authorize suitable observance of the bicentennial of the Brethren church's organization and existence, at time and place of Annual Meeting of 1908, and that Annual Meeting of 1907 take necessary steps to arrange for such exercises.

Passed and sent to Annual Meeting.

(d) We, the Germantown church, the mother church of the Brotherhood, ask Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to appoint a committee at our coming Annual Meeting to prepare a program for the observance of the bicentennial of our church in 1908, and that whatever may be said in matter of history and done to commemorate the event, be preserved in booklet form and be distributed over our Brotherhood.

Answer by district meeting: Request granted, with the understanding that the bicentennial exercises be held at Annual Meeting of 1908.

We, your committee, beg to submit the following report:

(1) We recommend the appointment of a program Committee for the bicentennial commemoration to be observed at the Annual Conference of 1908, composed of five members judiciously distributed in the Brotherhood, whose duties and privileges shall be as follows:

(a) To choose subjects covering the various phases of our church life and growth up to the present time.

(b) To provide competent speakers in full sympathy with the principles of the church.

(c) To publish the program not later than January 1, 1908.

(d) To have for use of these exercises such time preceding the business session as may be necessary; the usual missionary, Sunday-school, and educational discourses may constitute an appropriate part of said bicentennial program.



(2) In preparing the program the committee is

(a) To keep first and foremost in view the praise and glory of our Father for what he has done through the church (Deut. 32: 7-14).

(b) To maintain faithfully the principles and practice of the church for which she has hitherto stood.

(c) To stimulate to greater zeal in the various religious activities of the church and hasten the fulfillment of the Master's great command.

(3) The Brethren Publishing House shall provide for the publication of these addresses in convenient book form.

Committee on Bicentennial: D. L. Miller, G. N. Falkenstein, I. N. H. Beahm, M. G. Brumbaugh, S. N. McCann.

2. (a) Inasmuch as there is so much confusion of mind in the water at the time of baptism caused by nervousness from various conditions of the body coming in contact with the water, more especially in the young, thus rendering the mind incapable of intelligently answering questions, also an improper state of mind for the reception of the Holy Ghost; therefore: We, the Paradise Prairie church, ask district meeting of 1906 to ask Annual Meeting to grant the administrator the privilege of asking the questions before entering the water, and the laying on of hands and prayer be postponed until clothes are changed and a convenient place is secured.

Answer by district meeting.—Yes. See Matt. 3: 16; Acts 8: 14, 17 and 37.

(b) The Quemahoning church in regular council assembled ask Annual Meeting through district meeting of the Western District of Pennsylvania to revise Article 3, Minutes of 1848, so as to permit asking the three questions, that are asked the applicant for baptism, in the water, at the conclusion of the reading of the Scripture and the other questions asked. Then have prayer at the water-side, and in the water after kneeling say, "Upon thy confession of faith which thou hast made before God and witnesses, thou shalt for the remission of sins be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Referred to a committee of three to report to Annual Meeting of 1908.

Committee: D. Hays, L. W. Teeter, H. B. Brumbaugh.

3. We, the Newton church, petition Annual Meeting through district meeting of Southwestern Kansas and Southern Colorado



to instruct the various district mission boards to publish their annual statements in the Gospel Messenger. Request granted.

Passed.

4. We, the Abilene church, assembled in council, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting to request the Publishing House to publish death notices of children under five years of age in the Messenger.

Answer: Passed.

Referred to General Missionary and Tract Committee. Passed.

5. Inasmuch as the Brethren Sunday-school literature is considerably higher priced than the corresponding publications of other companies, and by reason of this difference many of the Brethren schools are using wholly or in part supplies from these outside companies.

Therefore, the Scott Valley church petitions the Annual Meeting through the district meeting of Southeastern Kansas, to authorize a revision of prices of the Brethren Sunday-school supplies, so that they shall correspond more nearly with like productions of other houses, that we may consistently urge the use of our literature among our own people and other Sunday schools.

Request granted by this district meeting and passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Referred to General Missionary and Tract Committee, and recommended that they make special prices to mission points. Passed.

6. The Silver Creek church requests district meeting to ask Annual Meeting of 1907 to place the District of Oregon, Washington and Idaho on same basis as other districts as to paying expenses of members of Standing Committee.

Answer: Hereafter all State Districts shall pay expenses of elders serving on Standing Committees.

Passed to the Annual Meeting.

Passed.

7. (a) We petition Annual Meeting through district meeting of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin to grant any congregation the privilege to change the time of service of its elder in charge from lifelong service to a term of not more than three years, on the following plan:

(1) That the choice of elder to act as foreman is to be determined by a majority of all the votes cast.



(2) That all elders of the congregation are eligible, irrespective of order of call to office of elder.

(3) That this be spread on the minutes for one year's consideration before being put before Conference for passage.

Answer: Petition granted, ordered sent to Annual Meeting.

(b) We, the Muncie congregation of the Southern District of Indiana, ask Annual Meeting through district meeting of 1906 to decide that hereafter elders in charge of congregations shall be elected for no longer period than three years at a time.

Answer by district.—We urge the change recommended in the above query and advise all the churches to adopt it as soon as practical. Passed. Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Spread on the minutes for one year.

8. South Bend Church (First Brethren).—Owing to the fact that many of our brethren work in factories and for corporations who demand their services on Sundays as well as on other days, thus making it very embarrassing to refuse; and not complying with their demands often jeopardizes their situation and causes them to lose their employment; therefore, we petition Annual Meeting through district meeting to say to what extent, if any, brethren may be allowed thus to labor on Sunday.

Answer: Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer: (1) We desire to raise our voice in earnest and emphatic protest against the growing tendency to desecrate the Christian Sabbath.

(2) We condemn all mere pleasure-seeking on this day.

(3) We urge diligent and specific teaching on this subject in the churches, in the Sunday schools, and the homes.

(4) We urge that our people refrain as much as possible from the use and patronage of those institutions, the running of which require other men to work on the Lord's Day.

(5) That our members in selecting their vocations should seek such work as will give them liberty therefrom on this day.

(6) That our brethren in pursuit of their occupations and labors and our sisters in the management of household affairs, are admonished to refrain as much as possible from secular labors, that they may give the day to physical rest and religious exercises, according to the Scriptures.

9. Owing to the fact that our Annual Conference is a religious body of the highest authority of the church but much of her spiritual influence many times is lost by unfavorable location and surroundings, We, the First Brethren church of South Bend, Ind., therefore petition Annual Meeting through district meeting to re-



commend that hereafter state districts in which the Annual Conference is to be held, and committees on location appointed by said district, shall give preference to Chautauqua grounds wherein to hold the meeting when such grounds are available. This shall also be an inducement in favor of locating the meeting by the Standing Committee.

Answer: Passed to Annual Meeting. Request granted.

10. Huntington Church.—Is it consistent with the Brethren church and the spirit of the Gospel for brethren to anoint those who have been dismissed from our fellowship?

Answer: No. Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: See No. 17, 1869, "Revised Minutes," page 18.

11. We, the Chippewa church, Wayne Co., Ohio, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to ask the Publishing House to discontinue the advertisement appearing on fourth page cover of Advanced Sunday School Quarterlies, as it is objectionable to many of our members. On motion paper was sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Referred to General Missionary and Tract Committee.

12. Believing that the general opposing sentiment of the Brethren church toward the evil known as "intemperance" is right in its principle, and, believing that a further organized and concerted effort on the part of the church as a whole, can accomplish still greater results favorable to its sentiments; therefore,

We, the Altoona church of Middle Pennsylvania, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting to appoint a committee of three, to draft a plan for creating and maintaining, through the approval of Annual Meeting, a permanent temperance committee, for the purpose of rendering service to the Brotherhood in defending their homes against the invasion of this evil, by providing for a temperance sermon at Annual Meeting, encouraging district organization in order to awaken and strengthen expression among our members, young and old to select and distribute tracts and helpful literature or any method looking to the end contemplated that meets the approval of the committee and Annual Meeting.

The committee named at this meeting, to report its proposed plan one year hence.

Passed and sent to Annual Meeting.



Answer: Petition granted. Committee: W. J. Swigart, J. W. Lear, J. A. Dove.

13. Inasmuch as the International Sunday-school lessons are inter-denominational, we, the Antietam congregation, at Waynesboro, Pa., do ask district meeting to petition Annual Meeting to direct that the Sunday-school committee designate as optional lessons, Scripture texts for doctrinal teaching at such periods, as, in their judgment, it will be wise to do so.

Sent to Annual Meeting.

Answer: Referred to the Sunday-school Committee, with the recommendation that the petition be favorably considered. See Minutes of Annual Meeting, Art. 1, 1896, in committee's report, Art. 2, division 1, p. 157, last clause, viz., "This committee shall assist the publishers of our Sunday-school literature in keeping our quarterlies, papers, etc., sound in the doctrine of the Scriptures, as understood by the General Brötherhood, and in raising the standard of our Sunday-school literature as rapidly as possible."

14. The District of California and Arizona petitioned that their district be formed into two districts, to be known as Northern California and Southern California and Arizona.

Answer: Petition granted.

15. Calls for Annual Meeting for 1908: North Dakota, Middle Iowa, Southern Pennsylvania. Granted to Middle Iowa.

Recommendation of General Missionary and Tract Committee:

The General Missionary and Tract Committee has appointed H. C. Early and Galen B. Royer to visit the churches in Europe this year, and ask that the appointments be confirmed.

Galen B. Royer, Secretary.

Appointments confirmed.

### Reports.

1. Report of General Missionary and Tract Committee.  
To the Annual Meeting of 1907, Greeting:

The General Missionary and Tract Committee, by the grace of God, is pleased to report the following as a brief statement of its work for the year ending March 30, 1907. It would respectfully call the Conference's attention to the full report which will be sent for the asking to any one. Each member should read the full report and be in touch with the general mission work of the church.

The year has not been marked with any large ingathering. Some progress has been made in accessions. For the most part, however, the work of developing the native church has been largely aimed at. The full report enters in detail into the condition of



each field, the statements having been prepared by the workers on the field themselves. Workers are the crying need. Not only foreign ones are needed, but natives who can do efficient service. This latter class are being developed just as fast as time will permit, and shortly a goodly number will be able to labor among their own people with power and, it is to be hoped, with good results.

The fact that from the large army of workers at home no one among the many who are prepared to enter the mission field, offered themselves, or felt called to go, is a matter for very serious consideration. No one to go when the Committee is ready to send, when God makes the loud appeal through the needs of the field! No one to go, while thousands are dying daily without a Christ! Surely if ever in the history of the church the Master's word, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he should send forth laborers," is in place, it is now. Will not this Conference, will not the beloved Brotherhood, cry mightily unto the Lord in this the need of the church?

The expenditures of the Committee the current year, as taken in total from the full report, are as follows:

World-wide fund, .....	\$ 37,070.88
India mission, .....	25,578.18
Church Extension, loans made, .....	1,700.00
Ministerial relief, .....	318.00
Gish Testament Fund, .....	235.60
Gish Publishing Fund, .....	2,689.95
Total expenditures, .....	\$ 67,592.61

In addition to the above expenditures, there were during the year paid in, which is held by the Committee in trust and added to funds already on hand, the following amounts:

Brooklyn Meetinghouse fund, .....	\$ 4,173.78
Endowment, .....	36,529.28

The assets of the Committee are as follows:

Cash on hands, .....	\$ 9,238.45
First mortgages on farm lands, .....	351,630.09
Invested in Brethren Publishing House, .....	130,000.00
Real Estate, .....	47,589.90
Estimated value of Gish estate not included in interest bearing funds, .....	7,500.00
Value of real estate above investment, .....	2,500.00
Church Extension loans, .....	7,581.30
Due from Brethren Publishing House, .....	8,000.00
Total assets, March 30, 1907, .....	\$564,039.74



The end of the year showed the following financial condition of the Brethren Publishing House:

Resources—	
Cash on hands, .....	\$ 3,972.28
Office fixtures, .....	2,040.82
Machinery, .....	62,922.68
General outfit, .....	10,145.64
Old ledger accounts unpaid, .....	309.08
Accounts receivable, .....	10,676.41
Expense, .....	251.50
Merchandise on hands, .....	7,682.05
Periodical merchandise on hands, .....	2,048.84
Job merchandise, .....	3,720.84
Bookstore merchandise, .....	2,043.18
Miscellaneous, .....	558.65
Total, .....	\$106,371.97
Liabilities—	
Unexpired periodical subscriptions, .....	\$ 23,880.01
Bookstore, .....	912.40
Net capital invested, .....	81,579.56
Total, .....	\$106,371.97

Within the past year buildings for the House have been more than doubled in floor space at a cost of \$35,000 on the part of the Committee. The House of itself, in addition, put in equipment and stock a little over \$40,000. The demands have fully justified this outlay.

#### The Gish Fund.

The year has been an unusually good one in this department. Ministers have taken greater interest in the books offered them through this medium as is shown in the fact that 6,424 volumes were sent out this year as against 3,346 last year. This is an encouraging sign. The Committee is very desirous of placing the best books possible in the hands of the ministers and hopes to enlarge its usefulness very rapidly.

#### Conclusion.

Save in mission receipts, the work has pushed forward. Just why there should be about \$2,250 less donated this year, a year of marked prosperity, is hard to explain. May it be possible that as we are prospered we forget God more? If that be true, will our forgetfulness be the occasion of sending reverses upon us so that we will come back to him? Be this as it may, it is sad—very, VERY sad for your Committee—that in this year of greatest of



plenty and prosperity it must report a shortage in contributions, and NO ONE TO GO.

This is not meant for a discouraging note. God reigns. Our Father is good. He can wrestle good out of these seeming reverses. But it would be a joy if the church would take better hold, do a greater work, and be more active in turning the world upside-down for Christ. The new fiscal year is already well under way. A committee, according to your decision, is being sent to visit the churches in Europe, and repair and make the best disposition of the work in France and Switzerland which Brother Fercken so ruthlessly dropped last November. Your servants, the Committee, have no other thought than to press on earnestly, but as they do, they beg for prayers and wrestlings in the closets by the Brotherhood, such as will make the new year a greater success for the Master. Amen.

D. L. Miller, Illinois.

H. C. Early, Virginia.

John Zuck, Iowa.

L. W. Teeter, Indiana.

Chas. D. Bonsack, District of Columbia.

## 2. Auditor's report.

We your committee appointed to audit the books and accounts of the General Missionary and Tract Committee including those of the Brethren Publishing House, beg to submit the following report:

We verified all the additions in the various account books and checked the postings to the ledgers and verified the results of the financial statements herewith submitted to you and find the same to be correct.

We found vouchers for all items of money expended; we examined the securities and found the amounts as herewith reported. All records have been carefully made and all explanations properly accounted for.

Lewis R. Peifer,

R. E. Burger,

J. P. Holsinger.

May 27, 1907.

## 3. Annual Meeting treasurer's report for year ending April 10, 1907:

### Receipts.

1906.

April 1, Balance on hand, .....	\$ 7 60
July 7, Borrowed from Gen. Miss. and Tract Com., .....	200 00
Oct. 8, Borrowed from Gen. Miss. and Tract Com., .....	200 00
March 28, 1907, Proceeds from Annual Meeting Minutes, .....	174 16

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\$581 76



1906.

**Expenditures.**

July 5, H. G. Miller, visiting Bridgewater College, .....	\$ 3 00
July 5, Peter Garber, visiting Bridgewater College, .....	4 50
July 5, H. C. Early, visiting Bridgewater College, .....	4 50
July 5, C. A. Williams, ½ expense as delegate from Washington and Idaho, .....	46 93
Held one year for lack of funds.	
July 5, L. E. Keltner, ½ expenses delegate from Washington and Idaho, .....	41 15
July 5, W. R. Deeter, visiting North Manchester College, ....	4 00
July 5, J. H. Wright, visiting North Manchester College, ....	1 50
July 5, Geo. L. Studebaker, visiting North Manchester College, .....	5 00
July 5, Geo. Manon, visiting McPherson College, .....	9 00
July 5, D. Rowland, visiting Mt. Morris College, .....	10 00
July 5, J. S. Mohler, visiting McPherson College, .....	23 36
July 5, George L. Studebaker, committee West Dayton church, .....	2 50
July 5, I. D. Parker, committee West Dayton church, .....	5 25
July 5, C. C. Price, three visits Mt. Morris College, .....	6 00
July 5, Michael Keller, visiting McPherson College, .....	15 29
July 5, M. S. Newcomer, visiting Mt. Morris College, .....	10 00
July 5, Stamps and stationery, .....	70
Aug. 30, Thomas B. Maddock, visiting Juniata College, .....	7 16
Aug. 30, D. A. Stayer, visiting Juniata College, .....	7 50
Aug. 30, S. J. Swigart, visiting Juniata College, .....	4 40
Aug. 30, Stamps, .....	12
Oct. 8, D. Hays, committee work, Eastern Pennsylvania, .....	49 62
Oct. 8, Albert Hollinger, committee work, Eastern Pa., .....	29 00
Oct. 8, L. T. Holsinger, committee work, Eastern Pa., .....	72 24
Oct. 8, David Rowland, visiting Mt. Morris College, .....	12 00
Oct. 8, Stamps, .....	16

1907.

April 10, I. W. Taylor, visiting West Dayton church, .....	64 41
April 10, G. S. Arnold, committee work, Western Pa., .....	4 15
April 10, Z. Annon, committee work, Western Pa., .....	8 95
April 10, J. H. Longanecker, committee work, Western Pa., ...	13 58
April 10, W. R. Deeter, visiting North Manchester College, ....	5 00
April 10, J. H. Wright, visiting North Manchester College, ....	1 50
April 10, Geo. L. Studebaker, visiting North Manchester College, .....	1 50
April 10, Postage, .....	28
April 10, Cash on hand, .....	107 51

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 \$581 76

Deducting the cash on hand from the amount borrowed and not paid back, leaves the treasury in debt, \$292.49.

We examined the within report (consisting of two pages) and found it correct.

Lewis R. Peifer, R. E. Burger, J. P. Holsinger, Auditing Committee for 1907.



### Committees Appointed.

Committee on Credentials.—David Hollinger, S. H. Miller, Jasper Barnhouse.

Committee on Resolutions.—J. J. Yoder, T. T. Myers, M. W. Emmert.

Sunday School Advisory Committee.—Levi Minnich, 1910; S. J. Miller, 1909; Otto L. Minnich, 1908.

Tract Examining Committee.—I. J. Rosenberger, 1912; A. C. Wieand, 1911; John S. Mohler, 1910; T. C. Denton, 1909; D. Hays, 1908.

Treasurer of Annual Meeting.—R. E. Arnold.

Missionary and Tract Committee.—C. D. Bonsack, 1910; H. C. Early, 1910; L. W. Teeter, 1909; D. L. Miller, 1908; John Zuck, 1908.

Gospel Messenger Advisory Committee.—G. S. Arnold, 1910; Chas. M. Yearout, 1909; P. R. Keltner, 1908.

Auditing Committee.—L. R. Peifer, 1910; R. E. Burger, 1909; Aaron L. Clair, 1908.

School Visiting Committee, with the names of those appointed in 1907.—Juniata College, D. A. Stayer; Bridgewater College, H. G. Miller; Mt. Morris College, C. M. Suter; M. S. Newcomer resigns, S. I. Newcomer appointed instead; McPherson College, M. Keller; North Manchester College, W. R. Deeter; Lordsburg College, Geo. Chemberlen.

Annual Meeting Railroad Committee.—D. L. Miller, Mt. Morris, Ill., Foreman. J. G. Royer, Mt. Morris, Ill., Western Association; G. A. Snider, Fostoria, Ohio, Central Association; E. W. Stoner, Union Bridge, Md., Eastern Association; P. S. Miller, Roanoke, Va., Southeastern Association; W. C. Hanawalt, Lordsburg, Cal., Southwestern Association; D. B. Eby, Sunnyside, Wash., Northwestern Association.

Committee on Greetings.—A. Hutchison, I. N. H. Beahm, D. H. Zigler.

Committees to Churches.

Mississinewa, Ind.: I. L. Berkey, L. H. Dickey, H. W. Kriehbaum.

Ft. Wayne, Ind.: D. F. Hoover, S. M. Smith, J. C. Bright.

Eastern Pennsylvania: L. T. Holsinger, D. Hays, P. S. Miller.

West Dayton, Ohio: I. W. Taylor, D. F. Hoover, G. W. Lentz, D. Hays, I. L. Berkey.

### LETTERS OF GREETING.

From Switzerland and France.

To the Moderator of the Annual Meeting of 1907.



Dear Brethren: We, the members and workers in this district, send greetings to Annual Meeting of 1907. We are very thankful to our heavenly Father for his many blessings, and for your continued prayer and support. We desire in the future to go forward in doing a more earnest work for Christ Jesus, and even through the difficulties hold up high the standard of the Gospel. God bless you now in your meeting and forever. Amen.

Adrian and Lizzie Pellet.

**Reply to Switzerland and France.**

Los Angeles, Cal., May 23, 1907.

To the Father's children in the First District of Switzerland and France, Greeting:

We, the brethren and sisters now in Conference assembled in this city hereby inform you, that your letter of Christian greeting has been received and accepted, and we pray our Father in heaven to continue his blessings unto you. And this year we send unto you our beloved elders, H. C. Early and Galen B. Royer, whom we commend to you as true men, and ministers of Christ. And we trust their words of wisdom and tokens of love may inspire you to more full and thorough consecration to the Master's cause. And now may the Holy Spirit ever guide you and us, until our work on earth is done. Signed in behalf of the Conference by,

L. T. Holsinger, Moderator; S. N. McCann, Writing Clerk.

**From Denmark.**

To the Annual Conference of 1907, Greeting:

We, the brethren and sisters in Denmark as a district, through our district meeting, held at Hørdum, Nov. 25 1906, have no query to present this year, but desire hereby to express our love and appreciation to the Brotherhood in America for all the help and interest shown us during the past years up to the present time. We are still pressing forward trying to do what we can, and ask an interest in your prayers that souls may be saved and the work move forward. We earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Our prayer is that the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may be with you in your meeting, and that all in the Conference may be blessed and led with the Holy Ghost, and your work result in much good for the whole Brotherhood, and in spreading the Gospel of Christ to all nations. Amen. In behalf of the Brethren churches in Denmark. Signed by elders:

M. Johansen, C. C. Eskildsen, P. C. Poulsen, C. Hansen, Secretary.



**Reply to Denmark.**

To the Churches in Denmark and Sweden, Greeting:

We, the brethren and sisters of America, at Los Angeles, Cal., in Annual Meeting assembled, receive with pleasure your words of encouragement and expressions of brotherly affection. It is with exceeding great joy that we see this renewed evidence of your fidelity to Christ and your continued loyalty to our beloved Brotherhood. In this our return salutation we would express our sincere love for you all. It is also our intense desire that you continue steadfast in our most holy faith and that you labor earnestly for the salvation of your countrymen. This year we send to you our beloved elders, H. C. Early and Galen B. Royer, whom we commend to you as true ministers of Christ. We trust their words of wisdom and tokens of love may inspire you to a deeper consecration to the Master's cause. Now unto this end we unitedly pray that the Holy Spirit may direct your lives. Signed in behalf of all the churches in America,

L. T. Holsinger, Moderator; S. N. McCann, Writing Clerk.

**From First District of Arkansas and Southern Missouri.**

To the Standing Committee at Annual Meeting assembled, Greeting:

We, the members of the First District of Arkansas and Southeastern Missouri in district meeting assembled this first day of November, 1906, at Palestine, Ark., decided to represent at Annual Meeting of 1907 by letter. The district has no queries to send to Annual Meeting, but send their love and greetings, and our prayer is that what may be passed at said meeting may be for the good of the whole Brotherhood.

Elder. J. H. Neher, Moderator; H. I. Buechley, Writing Clerk.

**Reply to First District of Arkansas and Southeastern Missouri.**

To the First District of Arkansas and Southeastern Missouri, Greeting:

We, the brethren in Annual Meeting assembled, are pleased to acknowledge your representation by letter. The greeting and body of the epistle are most kindly received. We send you the good wishes and prayers of the meeting that the Lord may greatly prosper you in the sustenance and spread of primitive Christianity throughout your district.

L. T. Holsinger, Moderator; S. N. McCann, Writing Clerk.



**From Cuba.**

To the Brethren and Sisters assembled in Annual Meeting, Greeting:

We, the First Brethren church of Cuba, desire to express our interest in the great Annual Conference of 1907. Our united prayer is that the Holy Spirit may preside over the hearts and minds of all present, that whatever is said and done may be to the honor of God and the upbuilding of his cause and Kingdom. We are glad to say the Lord has directed the organization of a Brethren church at this place, and our desire was to have been represented by delegate in Annual Conference this year, but circumstances have prevented. We therefore beg an interest in the prayers of all the dear brethren and sisters in our behalf, that the work of the Lord may prosper in the island of Cuba, and much good be accomplished here and elsewhere. In behalf of the church.

Minta Eby, Clerk.

**Reply to Cuba.**

To the Brethren and Sisters in Cuba, Greeting:

In Annual Conference assembled at Los Angeles, Cal. We, the brethren and sisters of America, receive with joy your salutation of love. It is a source of pleasure and helpfulness to us to know that we, in our deliberations, are held in memory by your little band of believers. In our return message we would express our appreciation of your tokens of brotherly affection. We also desire to commend you for your zeal in establishing the church in Cuba. It is our united prayer that you shall ever continue faithful in the Master's cause and that you may be instrumental in winning many to the Lord. To this end we commend you all to him who is abundantly able to keep you.

L. T. Holsinger, Moderator; S. N. McCann, Writing Clerk.

**From the District Meeting of Sweden.**

To the Annual Meeting of the Brethren in America. Dear Brethren and Sisters:

May the peace of God and his grace be with you. Another year has gone into eternity, and our heavenly Father has given us grace to meet in district conference, this time in Kjefflinge. In truth, the ways of the Lord are wonderful, and it is remarkable to see how he leads his people. We have received much help both in body and spirit from our Master, and truly the help we have received through you dear brethren and sisters, is great, for which we feel very grateful to God our heavenly Father, who through Jesus Christ our Savior has given you the mind to help us to bring the



whole Gospel to our Swedish people. Never in time can we repay what we have received, but we desire from the depth of our hearts always to press forward toward perfection, and the fulness of Christ. May our heavenly Father richly repay you for your sacrifice toward us. We desire to be remembered by you in the future. May the heavenly Father richly bless your Yearly Meetings, is our united prayer. We have no questions to present at this time.

By order of the district meeting.

Elder A. Andersson, Moderator; Elder Per Jönsson, Elder H. O. Weiler, J. M. Risberg, Sec.

### Reply to Sweden.

Los Angeles, Cal., May 23, 1907.

To our dear Brethren and Sisters of the District of Sweden, Greeting:

This is to say, that we, the brethren and sisters in conference assembled in Los Angeles, California, have received and gladly accepted your greetings of love, and hereby extend unto you our heartfelt love, and pray our heavenly Father to continue his richest blessings unto you. And now may the Holy Spirit ever abide with you and us until our work on earth is done. Signed in behalf of the Conference by,

L. T. Holsinger, Moderator; S. N. McCann, Writing Clerk.

### RESOLUTIONS.

[We delayed printing Minutes until June 18, and still the Resolutions had not reached us.]

### STANDING COMMITTEE FOR 1907.

1. First District of India, .....S. N. McCann
2. First District of Switzerland and France, .....
3. Sweden, .....
4. Denmark, .....
5. Oregon, Washington and Idaho, .....J. Harman Stover
6. Southern California and Arizona, .....Edmund Forney
7. Northern California, .....David Snyder
8. Oklahoma and Indian Territory, .....Samuel Edgecomb
9. Texas and Southwestern Louisiana, .....A. A. Sutter
10. Southwestern Kansas, Southern Colorado and Northwestern Oklahoma, .....M. Keller
11. Northwestern Kansas, and Northern Colorado, ..T. E. George
12. Southeastern Kansas, .....S. E. Lantz
13. Northeastern Kansas, .....William Davis



14. Nebraska, .....N. B. Wagoner
15. North Dakota, Northern Minnesota and Western Canada,....  
.....George Strycker
16. Northern Iowa, Southern Minnesota and South Dakota, .....  
.....J. E. Ralston
17. Middle Iowa, .....I. W. Brubaker
18. Southern Iowa, .....H. C. N. Coffman
19. Northern Missouri, .....J. H. Keller
20. Middle Missouri, .....G. W. Lentz
21. Southern Missouri and Northwestern Arkansas, ..F. W. Dove
22. First District of Arkansas and Southern Missouri, ..By Letter
23. Southern Illinois, .....D. J. Blickenstaff
24. Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, .....John Heckman
25. Michigan, .....By Letter
26. Northern Indiana, .....I. L. Berkey
27. Middle Indiana, .....Daniel Snell
28. Southern Indiana, .....L. T. Holsinger
29. Northwestern Ohio, .....L. H. Dickey
30. Northeastern Ohio, .....Noah Longanecker
31. Southern Ohio, .....D. M. Garver, I. J. Rosenberger
32. Western Pennsylvania, .....Silas S. Blough
33. Middle Pennsylvania, .....W. J. Swigart
34. Southern Pennsylvania, .....Wm. A. Anthony
35. Eastern Pennsylvania, .....J. T. Myers, John Herr
36. Western Maryland, .....By Letter
37. Middle Maryland, .....D. V. Long
38. Eastern Maryland, .....Geo. K. Sappington
39. Second District of West Virginia, .....By Letter
40. First District of West Virginia, .....By Letter
41. Second District of Virginia, .....H. G. Miller, A. S. Thomas
42. First District of Virginia, .....J. A. Dove, Henry Ikenberry
43. Tennessee, .....John H. Garst
44. North and South Carolina and Georgia, ..J. Henry Peterson  
L. T. Holsinger, Moderator; John Heckman, Reading Clerk;  
S. N. McCann, Writing Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1908.

Des Moines, Iowa.

On Tuesday morning, June 9, at 8 A. M., the Annual Meeting was called to order. After devotional exercises, conducted by Eld. John Wise, of Kansas, the following organization was announced:



H. C. Early, of Virginia, Moderator; Eld. S. F. Sanger, of Indiana, Reading Clerk; Eld. A. C. Wieand, of Illinois, Writing Clerk; John C. Zug, of Pennsylvania, Doorkeeper.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

#### 1. Educational Board.

A number of papers on the moral and religious guidance and control of the Brethren schools were referred to a committee; the following clauses of their report were adopted:

1. Standing Committee of Annual Meeting shall appoint an Educational Board of seven brethren, to be confirmed by the open Conference for a term of five years each, except those first appointed, two of whom shall serve five years, two four years, two three years and one two years, respectively, as indicated by Standing Committee.

2. Three members of the Educational Board shall be chosen from the schools, and four shall be chosen who are not connected with the schools; the majority of the board shall be ordained elders and they shall organize by electing a chairman, a secretary and treasurer from their own number.

3. The Educational Board shall be composed of brethren who are favorable to Christian education, broad-minded and who are working faithfully in harmony with the principles of church government as defined by Annual Meeting.

4. The Educational Board shall meet annually, or oftener if circumstances require it, and it shall visit, in body, each school once a year, or oftener if conditions demand it; or at the discretion of the Board, it may appoint three or more of its number to discharge this duty.

5. All questions arising as to teachers, textbooks, courses of study, athletics, church government, morals and religion, in connection with the several schools shall be referred to the Educational Board for decision.

6. The Educational Board shall have authority to make its decisions operative, and all appeals from its decisions shall be made to Standing Committee of Annual Meeting.

7. The Educational Board shall have the same moral and spiritual supervision over the several schools whose property is not owned by State Districts, but recognized by Annual Meeting, as those owned by State Districts and that such schools shall make full written report annually, to said Educational Board.

8. The Educational Board shall make written report annually of the condition of the several schools to Standing Committee of



Annual Meeting, the report to be at the disposal of the Standing Committee.

9. The Educational Board shall be allowed \$2.00 per day for actual time, and expenses incurred in its work, these expenses to be paid by Annual Meeting Treasurer out of a fund provided by Annual Meeting for this purpose.

10. All former decisions in conflict with this report are hereby repealed.

#### **Educational Board.**

A. C. Wieand, five years, 1913; S. G. Lehmer, five years, 1913; J. C. Bright, four years, 1912; W. B. Yount, four years, 1912; Edward Frantz, three years, 1911; L. T. Holsinger, three years, 1911; H. C. Early, two years, 1910.

#### **2. Supporting Pastors and Evangelists.**

To the district meeting of North Dakota, Northern Minnesota and Assiniboia, Canada, greeting: Inasmuch as the cause of Christ is suffering in our beloved Brotherhood, for the want of the proper support of the ministry, we, the members of the Berthold church, North Dakota, petition Annual Meeting of 1906, through district meeting, to devise a plan or method by which the pastors and evangelists of our church shall receive a gospel support (1 Cor. 9: 14 and 1 Tim. 5: 17, 18), that they may give themselves wholly to the work (1 Tim. 4: 13-15).

Answer: We recognize that, under the present unequaled distribution of our ministry, too often needed help is not given, the work of the ministry is much hindered and the cause is made to suffer, because the ministry has these financial hindrances. But we also recognize that our ministry, as it stands in relation to the church today, is gradually undergoing material changes, and that any legislation or radical change, in advance of this movement we seem to be undergoing, would be injurious to the church and the sacred calling of our ministry.

We therefore recommend that our Brotherhood exercise the utmost care and patience, while this conscious change is taking place. We need to be exceedingly careful in attempting to effect improvements along this line, when there seems to be an entire transformation coming over us, that our ministry does not fall from the high standard it has always held among our people, and degenerate into a class of hirelings, and thereby lose our power.

We further recommend that our churches comply more with the gospel rule of giving. See 1 Cor. 16: 2. If our churches would reduce to a system the recommendations of the Gospel, as suggested in the above text, and the scriptures referred to in the query, very much of the want that is being felt today would be relieved.

We further suggest that the mission boards of the various



districts of the Brotherhood study this question prayerfully, in relation to their several districts, and endeavor to encourage more the scriptural plan of freewill giving from every member in the district, having in mind this particular thing, of giving a worthy minister a proper support.

### 3. The Temperance Question.

Believing that the general opposing sentiment of the Brethren church toward the evil known as "intemperance" is right in its principle, and, believing that a further organized and concerted effort on the part of the church as a whole, can accomplish still greater results favorable to its sentiments; therefore,

We, the Altoona church of Middle Pennsylvania, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to appoint a committee of three, to draft a plan for creating and maintaining, through the approval of Annual Meeting, a permanent temperance committee, for the purpose of rendering service to the Brotherhood in defending their homes against the invasion of this evil, by providing for a temperance sermon at Annual Meeting, encouraging district organization in order to awaken and strengthen expression among our members, young and old, to select and distribute tracts and helpful literature, or any method looking to the end contemplated that meets the approval of the committee and Annual Meeting.

#### Report of Committee.

To the Annual Meeting of the German Baptist Brethren in Conference, assembled at Des Moines, Iowa, June 9-11, 1908, Greeting:

We, your Committee, appointed by Annual Meeting of 1907, to formulate a plan for creating and maintaining a permanent temperance committee, realizing that it is the duty of Christians to endeavor to suppress all forms of evil that imperil the morality of the people, as well as the sacred interests of the visible church, and realizing that the present use of intoxicating liquors, as a beverage, constitutes such evil, therefore we beg to submit the following recommendations:

I. That a permanent temperance committee be appointed, consisting of three members, whose term of office shall be three years, with the exception of two in the first appointment, which shall be one and two years respectively, each recurring vacancy to be filled by appointing a member thereto for three years.

II. The duties of this committee shall be:

1. To diligently inquire into the conditions as they exist in the Brotherhood concerning the different phases of this evil; and



select, write, or cause to be written, terse, helpful tracts in favor of temperance.

2. To constitute a bureau for procuring information as to the general temperance movement, and secure, and cause to be given to our membership, from time to time, through our church publications, such information as may be helpful in creating a more concerted action in dealing with the temperance question.

3. To assist State Districts and local congregations to organize and maintain aggressive movements toward counteracting and stamping out the evil of intemperance.

4. To render such personal assistance in holding district or local temperance meetings as may be deemed practical.

5. To create and quicken, in the minds of old and young, sentiment against this evil; to warn against the personal use of intoxicants of all grades, and to awaken opposition to the partnership of our State and National Governments in the traffic, by sharing the unrighteous profits and protecting, licensing, and fostering this great peril to all that is righteous and desirable to human life and hope.

6. To report annually to the General Conference the progress of their work, their methods of operation, etc., and suggest any further plans for approval, that may appeal favorably to them.

7. To create a treasury to provide means for defraying expenses incurred, through a plan embracing contributions from the different congregations, subject to the approval of Annual Meeting.

8. To arrange and have executed at time and place of each Annual Meeting a temperance program, consisting of either a temperance sermon, or such discussions of temperance topics as may tend to quicken interest in the cause, and emphasize our long-established temperance principles before our membership and the world.

III. That all these recommendations be carried out in accord with gospel principles, and subject to the directing care of the church.

#### 4. Change of Our Church Name.

Query.—The Grand Valley church, Colorado, petitions Annual Meeting, through district meeting of Northwestern Kansas and Colorado: As the word "German" in our church name, "German Baptist Brethren," is no longer applicable to us, as a denomination, but is misleading and in many places detrimental to our church work, and since there is another denomination by the name



of "German Baptist," thus creating confusion, therefore we ask Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to drop the word "German" from our church name.

After referring the matter to a committee for one year, after much investigation, and ample discussion, with much unanimity and good feeling, the church name was by a large majority changed from "German Baptist Brethren Church" to "**Church of the Brethren.**"

A legal statement of this action was duly certified to by the officers of the Conference before a notary public, and placed in the archives of the church at Elgin, Ill.

**5. To the Standing Committee and the Annual Meeting of 1908:—**

The General Missionary and Tract Committee respectfully requests its name changed from the "General Missionary and Tract Committee" to the "General Mission Board," so that hereafter it will be known as the **General Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren.**

Respectfully,

Galen B. Royer, Secretary and Treasurer.

Answer: Request granted.

**6. Questioning Applicants for Baptism.**

(a) Inasmuch as there is so much confusion of mind in the water at the time of baptism caused by nervousness from various conditions of the body coming in contact with the water, more especially in the young, thus rendering the mind incapable of intelligently answering questions, also an improper state of mind for the reception of the Holy Ghost; therefore: We, the Paradise Prairie church, ask district meeting of 1906 to ask Annual Meeting to grant the administrator the privilege of asking the questions before entering the water, and the laying on of hands and prayer be postponed until clothes are changed and a convenient place is secured.

Answer by district meeting.—Yes. See Matt. 3: 16; Acts 8: 14, 17 and 37.

(b) The Quemahoning church in regular council assembled ask Annual Meeting through district meeting of the Western District of Pennsylvania to revise Article 3, Minutes of 1848, so as to permit asking the three questions, that are asked the applicant for baptism, in the water, at the conclusion of the reading of the Scripture and the other questions asked. Then have prayer at the water-side, and in the water after kneeling say, "Upon thy confes-



sion of faith which thou hast made before God and witnesses, thou shalt for the remission of sins be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Referred to D. Hays, L. W. Teeter, H. B. Brumbaugh, to report to Annual Meeting of 1908:

Report of Committee. (1908.)

The committee appointed to consider queries (a) and (b), pages 10 and 11, Minutes of Annual Meeting for 1907, concerning the time and place for the prerequisites in baptism and in concluding the rite, is not prepared to submit a report at this stage of the investigation.—Committee: D. Hays, L. W. Teeter, H. B. Brumbaugh.

Answer: Report accepted and committee continued.

**7. Sisters Breaking the Bread and Passing the Cup.**

(a) We, the sisters of the Grundy County church, knowing that the Brethren in the beginning of our church gave the sisters the same privilege that the brethren enjoyed in acknowledging Christ as their head in the breaking of the bread and passing the cup, as they were commanded, "This do in remembrance of me," Luke 22: 19, and we sisters, seeing that we have made the same covenant with God in Christ Jesus that the brethren have made, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to grant us the same privilege in the breaking of bread and passing the cup that the brethren enjoy in fulfilling the Word of the Lord. 1 Cor. 10: 16. (Passed by Grundy County church.)

(b) We, the Surrey church, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting of North Dakota, Northern Minnesota and Assiniboia, Canada, to permit the sisters to break bread and pass the cup at communion services.

Answer: We recommend that these papers be placed in the hands of a committee of five to investigate the matter of breaking bread by the sisters.

1. As to its scriptural authority.

2. As to its agreement with the practice of the primitive church.

3. As it relates to the practice of the church during the past two hundred years, and to report to the Annual Meeting.

Committee: E. B. Hoff, H. C. Early, A. G. Crosswhite, J. E. Miller, D. C. Flory.

Your committee reports as follows: The matter is under in-



vestigation but not ready for a report at this meeting.—E. B. Hoff, H. C. Early, D. C. Flory, A. G. Crosswhite.

Report accepted and committee continued.

### QUERIES.

1. Inasmuch as it is the purpose and desire of the Board of Directors of Botetourt Normal College, at Daleville, Va., to work more successfully, and in harmony with the Brethren church, in the preparation of young ministers, Sunday-school workers and missionaries, we, the Board of Directors, ask district meeting to recognize the aforesaid institution as a Brethren school, and grant us the privilege of soliciting patronage from the several churches in the district.

Answer: Recognition accorded.

2. For the welfare of the church, and for the advancement of our educational work, the Second District of Virginia urgently petitions the Annual Meeting of 1908 to decide, (1) Whether the modern, intercollegiate baseball contests, with their attendant influences, are consistent with gospel teaching and in accord with the principles held by the church, and, (2) whether the trustees of the colleges owned by the church should permit the student body to engage in a series of such contests.

Answer: Referred to Educational Board.

3. The Second District of Virginia respectfully petitions Annual Meeting that the Annual Meeting of 1909 be held within the limits of said district.

Answer: Request granted.

4. We, the members of the Hagerstown church, assembled in regular council, do hereby petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting of Middle Maryland, to provide: (a) For a more comprehensive Sunday-school literature for adult Bible classes. (b) For literature better suited for the Home Department.

Answer: Since the General Mission Board has taken steps to meet this demand, we refer this paper to that Board to refer to such committee as they may appoint for consideration.

5. Pipe Creek church in whose territory Maryland Collegiate Institute, of Union Bridge, Maryland, is located, asks district meeting to ask Annual Meeting to take said institution under its fostering care, as it has other schools of the Brotherhood.

Answer: Recognition accorded.



6. We, the West Conestoga church, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting of Eastern Pennsylvania, to instruct the Brethren Publishing House to eliminate all patent medicine and quack doctor advertisements from its publications.

Answer: We, the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, recommend Annual Meeting to instruct the Brethren Publishing House that all medical advertisements be eliminated from its various publications.

Passed by Annual Meeting.

7. We, the members of the Huntingdon Brethren church, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting, at this Bicentennial celebration of the Dunker Brethren church, to encourage, so far as possible, a union of all the branches of the church, viz., the Old Order, Progressive, and Conservative Brethren. We do not propose a plan, but ask and pray that a plan of union, in keeping with our traditions and ancestry be made, and that such plan shall not violate any gospel principle.

Answer: While we would gladly welcome the Old Order and Progressive Brethren into the church, we cannot see the practicability of making the effort proposed in this paper, so long as we have no evidence of their desire, as bodies, to return.

8. We, the Elgin congregation, ask the district meeting of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin to petition Annual Meeting of 1908 to appoint a committee of three, to draft, and offer for adoption a plan by which a field secretary may be supported who can give his entire time to the supervision of the Sunday-school work of the Brotherhood.

Answer: Request granted, and funds are to be provided by Annual Meeting so the Committee can meet.

Committee: I. B. Trout, D. N. Eller, Lafayette Steele.

9. The Macoupin Creek church asks Annual Meeting, through district meeting of Southern District of Illinois, to reconsider the report of committee in Article 1 of 1904, and so amend that brethren may belong to such labor organizations as do not require them to violate any gospel principle.

Answer: Since the church has ever held sacred and inviolate her Gospel principles against secret and oathbound organizations, and all labor unions, and inasmuch as there is so much trouble between labor organizations and capitalists, we consider it unwise and exceedingly dangerous for our brethren to unite with any labor union. See John 18: 36; Philpp. 2: 15; and Art. 1, 1904, Annual Meeting Minutes.

10. Inasmuch as many of the State Districts have organized to



promote the cause of the Christian Workers' Meetings, there is felt a great need of a central organization to unify and encourage the movement throughout the Brotherhood; therefore, we, the McPherson church, petition Annual Meeting through district meeting to provide the needed organization.

Answer: Referred to Sunday-school Advisory Committee who are hereby empowered for this work.

11. We, the School Committee, chosen by the State District of Northern Dakota, Northern Minnesota and Western Canada, to ask Annual Meeting of 1908 to grant the above-named district the privilege of establishing a Brethren school in said district, do so petition.

Answer: Request granted.

12. Whereas the Annual Meeting of 1905 heartily endorsed the work of saving homeless children, and urged that other districts awake to this important work, and, inasmuch as some districts have now taken up this work under somewhat similar methods, while others have not taken it up: Therefore the district meeting of Oklahoma petitions Annual Meeting of 1908 to appoint a committee of five brethren from various portions of the Brotherhood, who are interested in the work of saving homeless children, to investigate the various methods of caring for such children, and present to the Annual Meeting of 1909 a plan or method so that all state districts can organize and carry on a similar system of caring for orphans and homeless children, and can coöperate together so as to accomplish the greatest good to the greatest number.

Answer: Request granted, and committee appointed.

Committee: Frank Fisher, George C. Carl, David Emmert. (Committee to organize themselves.)

13. We, the Powells Valley church, ask Annual Meeting through district meeting of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, to decide that no brother can serve as delegate from the local church to Annual Meeting more than two years in succession; nor more than two years in four, when possible.

Answer: Considered that it is best for each state district to make its own regulations in this matter.

14. The following persons were appointed as missionaries to foreign countries: George W. Hilton, North Dakota; Sister George W. Hilton, North Dakota; Ida Himmelsbaugh, Pennsylvania; Katharine Zigler, Pennsylvania; Blanche Lentz, Ohio.



### Reports.

#### Report of General Missionary and Tract Committee.

To the Standing Committee and to the Annual Meeting of 1908:

It is difficult to give a brief report of a work that covers the church's occupation in Indiana, France, Denmark and Sweden, as well as parts of the United States. But the Lord has been near his laborers and good has been accomplished. In India forty-five were received into membership by baptism, and ten reclaimed. Their total membership in 787. They have 1,027 in Sunday school, and their total collections for the year, amounted to nearly two hundred dollars. On the basis of our money, that would mean about \$600 for us, and even more if our resources should be taken into account.

The churches in Europe were visited last year according to appointment by Conference, Bro. Bonsack of Washington, D. C., taking Bro. Early's place. Everywhere the greeting was cordial, and the thankfulness with which they received the help from America will do any soul good to receive from them first-handed. There have been some seven accessions in Denmark and Sweden within the year, while in Switzerland there has been a great falling away, through the unfaithfulness of G. J. Fercken. Brother and Sister Pellet are doing their best in France, and the faithful have taken new courage.

The Board made the following general expenditures:

Through World-wide fund, .....	\$48,076 65
Through India fund, .....	22,040 99
Through Church Extension, .....	4,000 00
Through Missionary and Ministerial Relief, .....	486 00
Total, .....	<hr/> \$74,603 64
Less duplicate from World-wide fund, .....	\$10,033 85
Actual amount spent, .....	64,569 79
District Boards were helped to the amount of, .....	6,200 00
The Endowment was increased, .....	31,652 66
The total assets now are, .....	<hr/> \$603,747 75
an increase over last year of, .....	39,708 01

The Brethren Publishing House business grows and most of the publications show a healthy increase in circulation.

This is but a brief report made from the complete report which has been audited, and will be sent for the asking to any address. Be interested enough to get a copy of the report if you



are not subscribing for the Missionary Visitor in the June number of which it is published.

D. L. Miller,  
H. C. Early,  
John Zuck,  
L. W. Teeter,  
Chas. D. Bonsack,  
Committee.

Adopted.

#### Report of Auditing Committee to Annual Meeting of 1908.

We, your committee, appointed to audit the books and accounts of the General Missionary and Tract Committee, including those of the Brethren Publishing House, beg to submit the following report:

We verified all the additions in the various account books and checked the postings to the ledgers and verified the results of the financial statements herewith submitted to you and find the same to be correct, with the following exceptions:

The report in Missionary Visitor, in several instances, did not correspond with the books of the Secretary, owing to clerical or typographical errors.

On Loan No. 466, there is one interest coupon missing that is not accounted for on the books of the General Missionary and Tract Committee. The matter is being investigated through the bank to which the coupon was supposed to have been sent for collection.

The Accounts Receivable Record of Brethren Publishing House does not agree with the Accounts Receivable as shown in General Ledger, the record showing \$9.89 in excess of General Ledger.

We found vouchers for all items expended. We examined the securities and found the amounts as herewith reported, with the exception above mentioned. All records have been carefully made and all explanations properly accounted for.

R. E. Burger,  
L. R. Peifer,  
H. L. Fahrney.

Dated this 25th day of May, A. D. 1908.

Adopted.

Report of Annual Meeting Treasurer for year ending May 15, 1908. R. E. Arnold, Treasurer.



## Receipts.

1907.

April 10, Balance on hand, .....	\$107 51
July 1, G. Mahan, Northern Illinois, .....	22 58
July 12, J. J. Yoder, Southwestern Kansas and Southern Colo., ..	12 04
July 12, J. M. Moore, Texas and Louisiana, .....	1 75
July 12, H. C. Sheller, Northern Iowa and Minnesota, .....	11 88
July 15, J. S. Gable, Nebraska, .....	10 00
July 17, Wm. P. Bosserman, Oklahoma, .....	7 94
July 20, Peter B. Messner, Michigan, .....	8 00
July 20, S. S. Blocher, N. Dak., Northern Minn., Western Canada,	13 00
July 23, J. M. Brenneman, Northwestern Ohio, .....	14 50
July 24, N. Oren, Southern Missouri, .....	6 00
July 24, Geo. L. Ackley, Northwestern Kans., and Northern Colo.,	10 36
July 25, John F. Shoemaker, Southern Indiana, .....	25 79
July 27, J. B. Detter, Southern Ohio, .....	47 00
July 29, E. B. Brubaker, Eastern Pennsylvania, .....	65 00
July 30, Geo. A. Branscom, North Carolina, .....	6 00
Aug. 2, G. W. Ellenberger, Northern Missouri, .....	6 77
Aug. 6, Frank N. Sargent, Northeastern Kansas, .....	13 79
Aug. 7, J. S. Kuns, California and Arizona, .....	7 66
Aug. 23, D. F. Gingery, Southern Iowa, .....	6 50
Aug. 27, J. H. Garst, First District of Virginia, .....	37 00
Sept. 27, J. L. Cunningham, Middle Indiana, .....	35 00
Oct. 3, C. H. Erb, Middle Iowa, .....	10 00
Nov. 12, Geo. S. Arnold, First District of West Virginia, ....	15 34

1908.

Jan. 13, John E. Senseney, Eastern District of Maryland, .....	11 15
Feb. 15, C. R. Oellig, Southern District of Pennsylvania, .....	20 00
May 15, Geo. S. Myers, Middle District of Pennsylvania, .....	38 98
March 30, Proceeds of Annual Meeting Minutes, .....	118 36

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 \$689 90

## Expenditures.

1907.

July 3, Account book, .....	\$ 25
July 3, Postage for notices of dues, .....	75
July 3, Stamps for correspondence, .....	1 50
July 23, J. Harman Stover, one-half expenses as delegate to Annual Meeting, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, .....	32 85
July 23, Michael Keller, visiting McPherson College, .....	15 27
July 23, Geo. Manon, visiting McPherson College, .....	6 50
July 23, A. C. Daggett, visiting McPherson College, .....	8 23
July 23, H. G. Miller, visiting Bridgewater College, .....	3 00
July 23, Peter Garber, visiting Bridgewater College, .....	4 50
July 23, H. C. Early, visiting Bridgewater College, .....	4 50
July 31, I. W. Taylor, visiting West Dayton church, .....	13 00
July 31, D. F. Hoover, visiting West Dayton church, .....	31 65
July 31, Frank Fisher, visiting West Dayton church, .....	42 21
July 31, S. J. Swigart, visiting Juniata College, .....	3 84
July 31, Thomas B. Maddock, visiting Juniata College, .....	8 92



July 31, D. A. Stayer, visiting Juniata College, .....	\$ 2 55
July 31, David Rowland, visiting Mt. Morris College, .....	8 00
July 31, M. S. Newcomer, visiting Mt. Morris College, .....	4 00
July 31, C. C. Price, visiting Mt. Morris College, .....	4 00
Nov. 16, P. S. Miller, visiting West Dayton church, .....	32 15
1908.	
March 5, I. W. Taylor, visiting West Dayton church (two trips), .....	59 64
March 5, G. W. Lentz, visiting West Dayton church, .....	43 70
March 5, D. Hays, visiting West Dayton church, .....	38 50
March 5, I. L. Berkey, visiting West Dayton church, .....	18 25
May 11, General Missionary and Tract Committee	
Returned on money borrowed, .....	263 16
May 15, General Missionary and Tract Committee	
Paid on Loan, .....	38 98
	<hr/>
	\$689 90

There is yet due the General Missionary and Tract Committee \$97.86 for money borrowed, also interest not paid. The following is a list of State Districts that have not paid their dues, according to decision of Annual Meeting: Arkansas, Northern Indiana, Southern Illinois, Southeastern Kansas, Middle Maryland, Western Maryland, Middle Missouri, Northeastern Ohio, Oregon, Washington and Idaho, Western Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Second District of Virginia and Second District of West Virginia.

The above report was examined by us and found correct.

R. E. Burger,  
Lewis R. Peifer,  
H. L. Fahrney,  
Auditing Committee.

#### Committees Appointed.

Committee on Credentials.—D. B. Eby, J. H. Brumbaugh, S. S. Ullery.

Committee on Letters of Greeting.—S. N. McCann, Galen B. Royer.

Committee on Resolutions.—S. B. Miller, J. A. Dove, D. L. Mohler.

Sunday-school Advisory Committee.—D. H. Zigler, three years, 1911.

Tract Examining Committee.—D. Hays, reappointed, 1913.

Treasurer of Annual Meeting.—L. A. Plate, appointed, 1909.

General Mission Board.—D. L. Miller, reappointed, 1911; J. J. Yoder, appointed, 1911.

Gospel Messenger Advisory Committee.—P. R. Keltner, reappointed, 1911.



Auditing Committee.—Aaron L. Clair, reappointed, 1911.

Trustees of Brethren Hospital.—G. B. Royer, five years, 1913; Manly Deeter, four years, 1912; C. W. Lahman, three years, 1911; David Rowland, two years, 1910; I. D. Parker, one year, 1909.

General Secretary of Committee of Arrangements for Annual Meeting.—J. L. Cunningham, 1911.

Annual Meeting Railway Committee, 1909.—D. L. Miller, Mt. Morris, Ill., Foreman; J. G. Royer, Mt. Morris, Ill., Western Association; G. A. Snider, 375 Pine St., Lima, Ohio, Central Association; E. W. Stoner, Union Bridge, Md., Eastern Association; P. S. Miller, Roanoke, Va., Southeastern Association; M. M. Eshelman, R. D. 2, Gardena, Cal., Southwestern Association; D. B. Eby, Sunnyside Wash., Northwestern Association.

Committees to Churches.—Mountville church, Pa.: W. A. Gaunt, Albert Hollinger, A. B. Barnhart.

Accident church, Md.: Jasper Barnthouse, E. K. Hostetler, D. C. Flory.

Eastern Pa.: D. Hays, P. S. Miller, D. H. Zigler.

Ft. Wayne church, Ind.: D. F. Hoover, S. M. Smith, J. C. Bright.

West Dayton church, Ohio: W. R. Deeter, I. W. Taylor, G. A. Snider.

Mississinewa church, Ind.: I. L. Berkey, H. W. Krieghbaum, L. H. Dickey.

### LETTERS OF GREETING.

#### From the First District of India.

To the Brethren and Sisters Assembled in Annual Conference, Greeting:

We, the members of the Brethren church in India, in district meeting assembled at Vuli, March 16, 1908, desire to intimate to you our keen interest in the great Bicentennial Meeting in which you are engaged.

As you recall to mind and relate what great things the Lord has done for us all in the past, may your faith mount up by leaps and bounds for the still greater work, yet before us all.

We wish to express again our thankfulness for all you have done and are doing for the church in India. Each year gives the work here added strength; and little by little, we are taking upon ourselves more of the great work of carrying the good news of salvation to our heathen neighbors.

Two of the papers brought before our meeting today dealt directly with ways and means by which we may do more to lead



our neighbors to Christ. Our worldly goods are not many, but, in order to secure some means to send some of our own number to our neighbors, we decided today to make special self-denial, during at least one week in the year, and use what we can thus save in the Lord's work.

As you wait before the Lord, we shall wait with you, and pray with you that the Lord may magnify himself in us all.

Signed in behalf of all the missionaries and brethren and sisters in India.

J. M. Blough, Moderator; E. H. Eby, Secretary.

**Reply to the Churches in India.**

Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

The Annual Conference at Des Moines, Iowa, assembled, have heard your greetings and expressions of love and interest in our gathering. We are especially touched by the thoughtfulness of your being convened at Bulsar on the same days, and engaging in prayer in behalf of the work of the Conference. We rejoice with you in your victories for Christ and the progress you are making in building up the kingdom in India, and we earnestly beseech the Father to give you the fulness of blessing, both spiritual and temporal, as well as good health and power through the Spirit, to overcome sin about you, and win many for the Church. May his peace be ever upon each one of you, American workers, as well as upon each native member to whom this greeting is sent.

In behalf of the Brotherhood as well as this Conference.

H. C. Early, Moderator; S. F. Sanger, Reading Clerk; A. C. Wieand,  
Writing Clerk.

**From France and Switzerland.**

To the Brethren and Sisters Assembled in Annual Meeting in Des Moines, Greeting:

We, the workers and members of the First District of France and Switzerland, not being able to send any brother to represent us at the Annual Conference, send you this letter. We are pleased to report six accessions. It is with love that we are waiting for a missionary from America. May our Lord bless the one who may give his life to this work. Herewith we send our heartfelt thanks for the help and assistance we have received in the past.

We, the Benjamin mission of the Brethren church, wish and hope that, with the Heavenly Father's help, we may, ere many years, be one of the most flourishing fields of the Brotherhood. In this Bicentennial Anniversary Conference, may the windows of heaven be so largely opened that a rain of blessings, accompanied



by the Holy Ghost, may fall upon all for the benefit of our beloved church.

Kindly remember us in your prayers. We pray for you. Amen.  
Adrian and Lizzie Pellet.

**Reply to the Churches in France and Switzerland.**

Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

The greetings received, through the hand of our Brother and Sister Pellet, have been gladly received by the Conference assembled at Des Moines, Iowa, and we rejoice because of the encouragement to your work which is manifest in the accessions during the year and other tokens of God's love to you. In weakness there is strength and in the strong arm of the Lord there is power to be victor. Hence we commend you constantly to him, knowing that he will direct all things for good. Grow not weary in well doing. Persevere through faith. And even if we are not able to send you the desired help of a brother this year, press on and the Lord will reward you.

And may the heart of each one of you be open to the gentle leadings of the Spirit, aiding you to grow in grace, and give you power to overcome the wicked powers about you. May you be able to lift the banner higher and higher, and grow nearer like your Master until life is o'er.

In behalf of the Brotherhood and this Conference.  
H. C. Early, Moderator; S. F. Sanger, Reading Clerk; A. C. Wieand,  
Writing Clerk.

**From Sweden.**

The District Meeting of Sweden, held in Wanneberga, April 19-20, 1908, to the Annual Meeting of the Church of the Brethren, Peace:

The year of labor for 1907 is gone and many are the blessings that we, as God's people, have received from God, our Father, both spiritually and temporally.

The last time we had our district meeting, here in Wanneberga, we had our dear brother, A. W. Vaniman, among us, and it is with the greatest sadness that we learn about his going to the other shore. We are very glad to know that he is now in the better home above, and may the Lord Jesus Christ help us all that we, at last, may be permitted to meet him above, in the heavenly home.

We, as a district, are very glad to know that the General Missionary and Tract Committee have decided to send an elder from America, to serve as bishop, and oversee the work here among us, and our prayer is that the Committee may find a brother and sister who are willing to come here and help us.



Now, in conclusion, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks for all the help we have received from you, dear Brethren, unto this present day. May the Lord help you and give you richly for all your sacrifice made for us. We wish you to keep us in your remembrance for the future. May God help us and you all, dear Brethren, that we may be permitted to meet above!

May God, our Heavenly Father, give you a good Annual Meeting, is our prayer.

For the District Meeting of Sweden,

Signed, P. Jonsson, Elder; H. O. Weiler, Elder; A. Anderson, Elder; J. M. Risberg, Secretary.

#### Reply to Sweden.

Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

The Annual Conference, assembled at Des Moines, Iowa, received your greetings and expressions of appreciation for the assistance given you in your work in Sweden. It wishes to return the greetings in the fullest measure and express to you our deep sympathy for you, in all your labors, and commend you to God and his grace for guidance, and strength, and power, to overcome in his name.

The Conference deeply regrets that there is no one to go to your field and assist you, but hopes that within the next year some one will be found willing to go. In the meantime we call upon you to do your best in pushing the work, and to remain loyal to Christ and the church, in whose behalf we are all ambassadors. May each one of us grow more and more in the likeness of our Master, as we strive to live nearer to him.

In behalf of the Brotherhood and this Conference.

H. C. Early, Moderator; S. F. Sanger, Reading Clerk; A. C. Wieand, Writing Clerk.

#### From Denmark.

To the Annual Conference of 1908:

We, the brethren and sisters in Denmark, unite in sending our hearty thanks to all our brethren and sisters from the whole Brotherhood in the States, that you sent us the dear visiting brethren,—Galen B. Royer and Chas. D. Bonsack,—to visit us last summer, and for both temporal and spiritual helps received up to this day. We, being united in one faith, commend ourselves to our beloved Brethren in America, and hope to have their future sympathy in finishing the noble work of the Lord among our natives as well as among all nations of the world. May the best blessings of our Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, attend all



your efforts, and be with you in your Conference, and throughout the whole proceedings, is our prayer.

In behalf of the Brethren churches of Denmark as a district.

Signed, C. C. Eskildsen, C. Hansen, Secretary.

### Reply to Denmark.

Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

The Annual Conference, assembled at Des Moines, Iowa, rejoices in the words of greeting from the churches in Denmark, and to know of their love for the Savior and his church, and their desire to live more and more like him, in order that each one may forever dwell with him. We are glad that you appreciate our assistance, and we believe that you will make the wisest and best use of it for the glory of God and his kingdom.

The Conference returns the greetings in fullest measure and sends the love of the Brotherhood to each member and each sympathizer of the church in Denmark. May our Father's protecting power be ever over you, the Son's richest love inspire you, and the fulness of the Holy Ghost be your Comforter and Guide forever and ever.

In behalf of the Brotherhood and this Conference.

H. C. Early Moderator; S. F. Sanger, Reading Clerk; A. C. Wiedand, Writing Clerk.

### RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, through a kind Providence, we have been permitted to reach another Conference period, and through the same kind Providence we have finished two hundred years of our existence as an organized church body, and have been permitted to review and recount the experiences of the past, to take our bearings of the present, and receive a vision of the future work of the church in its mission in the world,

Be it resolved, that we, hereby, formally express our gratitude:

1. To the kind Father in heaven, who has so graciously blessed us in our endeavors to worship him and his dear Son through the agency of his Word, as the Holy Spirit has directed us;

2. To the dear brethren and sisters for the spirit of Christian fellowship manifested in our deliberations and associations;

3. To the Greater Des Moines Committee, to the Des Moines Commercial Club, and the East Des Moines Commercial League, for their liberality in providing for us the use of the State Fair



Grounds, its buildings and accommodations, light, water and police protection;

4. To the Eastern, Southeastern, Northwestern, and Southwestern Passenger Associations for a special rate and accommodations to our people coming from great distances;

5. To the Postal Authorities and Western Union Telegraph Company for offices on the Grounds for the convenience of our people;

6. To the homes of the city, which were so generously opened for our entertainment;

7. To the various churches of the city that invited our ministers to occupy their pulpits;

8. To the Press for its courtesy in reporting our meetings from day to day;

9. To the Bicentennial Program Committee for its efficient service in arranging the program and to those who have so ably carried it into execution;

10. To the Middle District of Iowa, which arranged for the entertainment of this Bicentennial Conference;

11. And, lastly, to the Committee of Arrangements and its sub-committees which have so faithfully performed their duties in so amply providing for our physical comforts and spiritual privileges, and especially debarring from the Grounds all business schemes and projects which might hinder the spirit and interest of the meetings.

Committee: S. B. Miller, J. A. Dove, D. L. Mohler.

#### General Sunday-school Report for the Year 1907.

Under the blessings of God we are permitted to present the twelfth annual statistical report of our Sunday-school work, closing Dec. 31, 1907, which includes every one of our forty-one State Districts. We are delighted to extend a cordial welcome to our new State District, Northern California, the first Sunday-school report of which is included herewith. Our report is compiled from the reports of the State District secretaries and a comparison with the report of the previous year is as follows:

	1907	1906	Increase
Number of churchhouses, .....	1,154	1,096	68
Number of preaching places, .....	1,670	1,571	99
Number of Sunday schools, .....	1,131	1,053	78
Enrollment, .....	73,661	58,660	15,001
Average attendance, .....	48,051	40,808	7,243
Number of teachers, .....	5,613	4,918	695
Amount of money collected, .....	\$41,773.16	\$34,179.42	\$7,593.74
Amount for missionary and benevolent purposes, .....	\$15,372.16	\$14,710.83	\$ 661.33



	1907	1906	Increase
Number of schools having teachers' meetings, .....	706	630	76
Number of Sunday-school scholars converted, .....	2,760	2,753	7
Number of home departments, ....	89	69	20
Number of schools having cradle roll, .....	87		
Number of Schools having decision day, .....	30		
Number of schools having a library,	232		

The last three items are not included in any previous report. We know of thirty superintendents who did not respond to the requests to report the statistics of their Sunday schools and therefore the schools they represent are not included in the above report. Twelve of these schools are in the Second District of Virginia, and ten in Tennessee. Many local reports do not include the number of pupils enrolled. To these schools we give the same number to represent the enrollment, as is given for the average attendance. If the exact enrollment of these schools had been given, and the thirty schools, above alluded to, had been reported, our report would show a total enrollment of more than 75,000. This leads us to urge every Sunday-school teacher and every Sunday-school superintendent to keep an accurate enrollment of their respective classes and school at all times, thus enabling them to keep in touch with absent pupils and give the correct enrollment at the close of the year. It is encouraging to know of the excellent work done by some of our district secretaries during the past year, in visiting Sunday schools, assisting in holding local Sunday-school meetings, Sunday-school institutes, and in inspiring the work in a general way. We urge our State Districts to appoint secretaries who will give this work due attention, not only in securing an annual statistical report, but to inspire the Sunday-school work of the district. Then see to it that their expenses are defrayed, and an ample recompense allowed for their time spent.

The merits of a Home Department and a Cradle Roll are no longer an experiment, where a thorough trial has been given. According to the most recent reports, the present year will show an unprecedented increase in these departments of Sunday-school work. The suggestion, that we increase the enrollment in our Bicentennial year to 100,000, which closely represents our membership, is generally approved. We are pleased to know that our district secretaries, superintendents, teachers and workers, are making an effort to reach this number. Perhaps the most effective



method to increase our attendance, is to secure more efficient teachers. It is encouraging to know that an increased number of our young people are availing themselves of the opportunity of attending Bible schools and Sunday-school teachers' institutes, that they may be more efficient in Sunday-school and church work. We urge those, who do not have access to the above advantages, to organize teachers' training classes. If this suggestion would be carried out and each Sunday school would hold a live, instructive teachers' meeting regularly, our enrollment would soon surpass our church membership, the number of accessions to the church would be greatly increased from year to year, and fewer of our boys and girls would be lost to the church.

Committee: S. J. Miller, O. L. Minnich, Levi Minnich.

#### Standing Committee for 1908.

1. North and South Carolina and Georgia, ....Not represented
2. Tennessee, .....C. H. Diehl
3. First District of Virginia, .....P. S. Miller, W. H. Naff
4. Second District of Virginia, .....H. C. Early, D. C. Flory
5. First District of West Virginia, .....Jeremiah Thomas
6. Second District of West Virginia, .....Z. Annon
7. Eastern Maryland, .....T. J. Kolb
8. Middle Maryland, .....John A. Meyers
9. Western Maryland, .....By letter
10. Eastern Pennsylvania, .....J. H. Longanecker, I. W. Taylor
11. Southern Pennsylvania, .....E. S. Miller
12. Middle Pennsylvania, .....James A. Sell
13. Western Pennsylvania, .....P. J. Blough
14. Southern Ohio, .....J. C. Bright, David Hollinger
15. Northeastern Ohio, .....James Murray
16. Northwestern Ohio, .....G. A. Snider
17. Southern Indiana, .....L. W. Teeter
18. Middle Indiana, .....Frank Fisher, J. H. Wright
19. Northern Indiana, .....S. F. Sanger, Manly Deeter
20. Michigan, .....C. L. Wilkins
21. Northern Illinois and Wisconsin, .....A. C. Wieand
22. Southern Illinois, .....J. W. Harsbarger
23. First District Arkansas and Southeastern Missouri, H. J. Lilly
24. Southern Missouri and Northwestern Arkansas, ..A. Killingsworth
25. Middle Missouri, .....E. E. John
26. Northern Missouri, .....J. E. Ellenberger
27. Southern Iowa, .....D. F. Sink



28. Middle Iowa, .....A. C. Snowberger
29. Northern Iowa, Southern Minnesota and S. Dakota, .....  
.....W. H. Lichty
30. N. Dakota, Northern Minnesota and Western Canada, .....  
.....J. E. Joseph
31. Nebraska, .....J. B. Moore
32. Northeastern Kansas, .....George Manon
33. Southeastern Kansas, .....George Eller
34. Northwestern Kansas and Northern Colorado,....B. E. Kesler
35. Southwestern Kansas, Southern Colorado and Northern  
Oklahoma, .....J. E. Crist
36. Texas and Southwestern Louisiana, .....J. C. Minix
37. Oklahoma and Indian Territory, .....A. J. Smith
38. Northern California, .....H. F. Maust
39. Southern California and Arizona, .....D. A. Norcross
40. Oregon, Washington and Idaho, .....Geo. C. Carl
41. Denmark, .....By letter
42. Sweden, .....By letter
43. First District of Switzerland and France, .....By letter
44. First District of India, .....Adam Ebey

S. F. Sanger, Reading Clerk,  
H. C. Early, Moderator,  
A. C. Wieand, Writing Clerk.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF 1909.

Harrisonburg, Va.

On Tuesday morning, June 1, at 8 o'clock, the Annual Meeting was called to order. After devotional exercises, conducted by Eld. A. C. Wieand, the following organization was announced: Eld. D. M. Garver, of Ohio, Moderator; Eld. G. W. Lentz, of Missouri, Reading Clerk; Eld. A. G. Crosswhite, of Indiana, Writing Clerk; Eld. Ira Kreider, of Indiana, Doorkeeper.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

#### 1. Field Sunday-school Secretary.

We, the Elgin congregation, ask the district meeting of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin to petition Annual Meeting of 1908 to appoint a committee of three, to draft and offer for adoption a plan by which a field secretary may be supported who can give his entire time to the supervision of the Sunday-school work of the Brotherhood.



Answer: Request granted, and funds are to be provided by Annual Meeting so the Committee can meet.

Committee: I. B. Trout, D. N. Eller, Lafayette Steele.

#### Report of Committee.

To the Annual Meeting, Harrisonburg, Va., Greeting: We, your committee, have the question referred to us under investigation, and, owing to the magnitude of the work, we are not ready to present our final report.

Signed: I. B. Trout, D. N. Eller, Lafayette Steele.

Committee continued.

### 2. Saving Homeless Children.

Whereas the Annual Meeting of 1905 heartily endorsed the work of saving homeless children, and urged that other districts awake to this important work, and, inasmuch as some districts have now taken up this work under somewhat similar methods, while others have not taken it up: Therefore, the district meeting of Oklahoma petitions Annual Meeting of 1908 to appoint a committee of three brethren from various portions of the Brotherhood, who are interested in the work of saving homeless children, to investigate the various methods of caring for such children, and present to the Annual Meeting of 1909 a plan or method so that all State Districts can organize and carry on a similar system of caring for orphans and homeless children, and can coöperate together, so as to accomplish the greatest good to the greatest number.

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer by Standing Committee: "Request granted."

Committee: Frank Fisher, of Indiana; George C. Carl, of Oregon; David Emmert, of Pennsylvania.

#### Report of Committee of 1909.

We, your committee, can only report progress in our arduous work and, because of the many complications to overcome, and the undeveloped condition of the question nationally, we ask for an extension of one year to make our final report.

Committee: Frank Fisher, Geo. C. Carl, David Emmert.

Report accepted and committee continued.

### 3. Central Organization for the Christian Workers' Meetings.

Inasmuch as many of the State Districts have organized to promote the cause of the Christian Workers' Meetings, there is felt a great need of a central organization to unify and encourage the movement throughout the Brotherhood; therefore, we, the Mc-



Pherson church, petition Annual Meeting through district meeting to provide the needed organization.

Answer: Referred to Sunday-school Advisory Committee who are hereby empowered for this work (by the Annual Meeting of 1908).

#### Recommendations of the Committee.

Since the matter of forming a central organization, to unify and encourage the Christian Workers' meeting movement throughout the Brotherhood, has been referred to our committee, we beg to recommend the following:

1. That the selection of the lesson topics, lesson helps, and the arranging of the programs be in the hands of our Sunday-school editor and the Brethren Publishing House.

2. That the Sunday-school paper known as Our Young People, be the official organ of our Christian Workers' meetings.

3. That each State District appoint her Sunday-school secretary to act as her Christian Workers' meeting secretary, whose duty it shall be to inspire the work, and effect a more thorough and a more general organization of Christian Workers' meetings in the various congregations throughout the State District, and to provide the Sunday-school Advisory Committee with such statistics and other information as that body may ask.

4. That said secretary be paid for his time and expenses.

5. That at least one topic concerning the Christian Workers' meeting be placed upon each local, district and Conference Sunday-school meeting program.—S. J. Miller, Levi Minnich, D. H. Zigler.

Report accepted; committee's recommendations accepted.

#### 4. Questioning Applicants for Baptism.

(a) Inasmuch as there is so much confusion of mind in the water at the time of baptism caused by nervousness from various conditions of the body coming in contact with the water, more especially in the young, thus rendering the mind incapable of intelligently answering questions, also an improper state of mind for the reception of the Holy Ghost; therefore: We, the Paradise Prairie church, ask district meeting of 1906 to ask Annual Meeting to grant the administrator the privilege of asking the questions before entering the water, and the laying on of hands and prayer be postponed until clothes are changed and a convenient place is secured.

Answer by district meeting: Yes. See Matt. 3: 16; Acts 8: 14, 17 and 37.



(b) The Quemahoning church, in regular council assembled, asks Annual Meeting through district meeting of the Western District of Pennsylvania to revise Article 3, Minutes of 1848, so as to permit asking the three questions, that are asked the applicant for baptism, in the water, at the conclusion of the reading of the Scripture and the other questions asked. Then have prayer at the water-side, and in the water after kneeling say, "Upon thy confession of faith which thou hast made before God and witnesses, thou shalt for the remission of sins be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Passed to Annual Meeting.

Referred to D. Hays, L. W. Teeter, H. B. Brumbaugh, to report to Annual Meeting of 1908.

#### Report of Committee.

The committee appointed to consider queries (a) and (b), pages 10 and 11, Minutes of Annual Meeting for 1907, concerning the time and place for the prerequisites in baptism and in concluding the rite, is not prepared to submit a report at this stage of the investigation.—Committee: D. Hays, L. W. Teeter, H. B. Brumbaugh.

Answer of Annual Meeting of 1908: Report accepted and committee continued.

#### Final Report of Committee—1909.

Answer: After carefully considering the queries given into our hands, in reference to the time and place for asking the questions used before baptism, and the laying on of hands after baptism, we see no sufficient reason for making any change in our general practice, as defined by Annual Conference.—D. Hays, L. W. Teeter, H. B. Brumbaugh.

Answer: Passed.

#### **Sisters Breaking the Bread and Passing the Cup.**

(a) We, the sisters of the Grundy County church, knowing that the Brethren, in the beginning of our church, gave the sisters the same privilege that the brethren enjoyed, in acknowledging Christ as their head, in the breaking of the bread and the passing of the cup, as they were commanded, "This do in remembrance of me," Luke 22: 19, and we sisters, seeing that we have made the same covenant with God, in Christ Jesus, that the brethren have made, petition Annual Meeting through district meeting, to grant us the same privilege in the breaking of bread and passing the cup, that the brethren enjoy in fulfilling the Word of the Lord. 1 Cor. 10: 1-6. (Passed by the Grundy County church.)



(b) We, the Surrey church, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting of North Dakota, Northern Minnesota and Assiniboia, Canada, to permit the sisters to break bread and pass the cup at communion services.

Answer: We recommend that these papers be placed in the hands of a committee of five, to investigate the matter of breaking bread by the sisters.

1. As to its scriptural authority.

2. As to its agreement with the practice of the primitive church.

3. As it relates to the practice of the church during the past two hundred years, and to report to the Annual Meeting.

Committee: E. B. Hoff, H. C. Early, A. G. Crosswhite, J. E. Miller, D. C. Flory.

Your committee reports as follows: The officiating minister, or ministers, shall break the bread and pass the cup of communion to both brethren and sisters. Committee: H. C. Early, D. C. Flory, A. G. Crosswhite, J. E. Miller.

Deferred one year and committee continued.

#### From the General Mission Board.

1. The General Mission Board petitions Annual Meeting, through Standing Committee, to provide a fund to be used to assist, in special cases of worthy people, without means, in their preparation for the mission work of the church, the Conference to say how the fund shall be cared for and who shall pass upon the applications for assistance. Signed: The General Mission Board.

Answer: In view of the importance and general application of this petition, as it relates to the rules and usages of the churches, we decide to refer it to a committee of five brethren, to report to Annual Meeting of 1910. Committee: L. W. Teeter, T. C. Denton, D. Hays, G. W. Lentz, L. T. Holsinger.

2. The General Mission Board asks the Annual Meeting, through Standing Committee, if it may, through the Gish Publishing fund, or otherwise, publish in book form "all the Minutes" of the Annual Meeting "for historical value."

Answer: Request granted.

#### Queries.

1. The Brethren in Denmark wish to ask the Missionary and Tract Committee of the Church of the Brethren: May we elect some of our Brethren in Denmark, as a Tract Committee, to examine Danish tracts, if any of our members here would like to write tracts, to have printed in Denmark?



Answer: Referred to Tract Examining Committee.

2. Bethany Bible School petitions Annual Meeting to be recognized as a Brethren school.

Answer: Request granted.

3. We ask Annual Meeting to change Article 6 of the rules governing the Educational Board, so as to read as follows: The Educational Board shall have authority to make its decisions operative, and all appeals from its decisions shall be made to the Annual Meeting, through the Standing Committee.

Answer: Request granted.

4. Solomon's Creek church. We request district meeting of Northern Indiana to call for Annual Meeting for 1910.

Answer: Request granted.

5. (a) Inasmuch as there is a growing tendency in the Church of the Brethren to disregard the distinctive principles of nonconformity, causing much confusion, we, the Monocacy church, in council assembled, this third day of April, 1909, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to devise some plan by which the churches may work in harmony.

Answer by district Meeting of Eastern Maryland: We endorse the sentiment of this paper, and request Annual Meeting to take such steps on the dress question as will keep us united on gospel principles and will maintain peace and unity in the Brotherhood.

(b) In consequence of the unrest at present existing in different parts of our Brotherhood in reference to the dress question, and with a desire to avoid further divergence in the minds of our brethren and sisters, the New Enterprise congregation asks Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to appoint a committee of seven representative brethren, who shall consider the existing inconsistencies resulting from the different interpretations of the present decisions on this subject. Also to take cognizance of all scriptures relating to this question, and the view of the founders of the Church of the Brethren, as they are on record or can be acquired, and report, as soon as possible, a plan by which the gospel principles of plain dressing and plain living can be accepted and exemplified in all our local congregations.

Answer: The following motion was offered and passed:

"In view of the fact that these queries clearly touch the vital problem of the dress question, now disturbing the peace of the



Brotherhood, I move that a committee of seven faithful, intelligent, conservative brethren be appointed, to whom these papers shall be submitted, to be reported on at a coming Annual Meeting.

“That the committee be instructed to examine carefully and exhaustively the scriptural ground on the subject of Christian attire, that the practice of the primitive church be investigated, and the position and teaching of our own church fathers and the Minutes of our Conferences be examined, with a view of giving us a clear, concise restatement of our position on this vexed question, so that all may understand alike and be unified and dwell together as becometh children of the family of God—in love and peace and harmony.

“During the time the committee, so appointed, is considering the queries, the dress question shall not be considered an open one for discussion in the Messenger, but those having suggestions of a helpful character to make, are invited to write the chairman of the committee; and further, in the meantime, elders, ministers, and teachers are exhorted to teach earnestly and intelligently the scriptural doctrine of plain dressing and plain living as set forth by our Annual Meeting, so that the Church may not depart from these principles that have been so dear to all our faithful members since she was first organized.”

The following committee was then chosen: D. L. Miller, L. W. Teeter, Daniel Hays, A. C. Wieand, L. T. Holsinger, B. E. Kesler, G. W. Lentz.

6. (a) We, the Brethren of the Manor church, Md., petition Annual Meeting through district meeting of Middle Maryland, to recommend that the Sunday before the business session of Annual Meeting be spent as a day of fasting and prayer, both by the council assembled and by the churches at home, for a deeper spirit of union among God's people, and more of the power of the spirit upon the church. Acts 13: 2, 3.

(b) Inasmuch as there is great power in prayer, we, the brethren and sisters of the Linville Creek congregation of the Second District of Virginia, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting, that New Year's Day be set apart by the General Conference as a special day of prayer for the success of the church and the saving of the lost during the year, and that a special program be gotten out on prayer, and be published in the Gospel Messenger in due time, and that all congregations be urged to meet in their respective places of worship and offer special prayer for the success of the church.



Answer of district meeting: We recommend that the petition be granted and we recommend also that the Sunday before the Annual Conference opens, on Tuesday, be made a day of solemn prayer and fasting for the success of the Conference and the union of the Brotherhood.

Answer: Two papers were considered together, the one from Middle Maryland and the other from the Second District of Virginia, and the answer of the Conference was that New Year's Day be made a special day of prayer for the success of the church and that the Sunday preceding the opening of Annual Conference be solemnly observed as a day of fasting and prayer for the success of the Conference.

7. We, the members of the Lick Creek congregation, petition Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to decide against our Publishing House sending out, through its publications, pictures of members who do not conform to gospel plainness and the order of the Church of the Brethren.

Answer: We so decide and urge more carefulness on the part of those in charge of our publishing interests.

8. (a) Since the International Sunday-school Lesson Series not only fails to teach the greater part of the New Testament principles, but also does actual violence to some by the improper setting of the heading, Daily Readings, and Golden Texts, we, the Mechanic Grove church, ask Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to adopt independent Sunday-school lesson texts, so arranged that all the New Testament will be studied in a course of years, that the distinguishing doctrines of the Church of the Brethren receive special attention, so as to qualify all to give a reason for the observance of all things as taught and practiced by the Brethren. We also desire that the New Testament be held superior to the Old, as it is the "perfect law of liberty."

(b) Whereas the Church of the Brethren believes in, and stands for, the whole Gospel, and whereas some of its doctrines are excluded from the Sunday-school outlines, as they are given by the International Sunday-school Committee, we, the Chestnut Grove congregation, ask the district meeting of the First District of Virginia, to ask Annual Meeting to give us, through the Sunday-school committee or otherwise, Sunday-school outlines that will include all the doctrines of the Bible.

Answer: Passed by district meeting, asking that the Sunday-school Committee give us, at such intervals as they may deem best, lessons on such doctrines of the Bible as will take in all that are now not given in the International Lessons, especially the doctrine of nonconformity to the world.



(c) Since the Church of the Brethren has always held the New Testament as her standard of faith and practice, and since, by the use of the International Lessons, she is constantly deprived of much important New Testament teaching in her Sunday schools, therefore the Linville Creek congregation asks her district conference, to petition General Conference to provide that, as soon as possible, the assignment of all Sunday-school lessons be confined to the New Testament text only; and with the view of the impartial study of the whole of it, in Sunday-school lessons; and that the Old Testament be used only as an auxiliary or help in the study, preparation, and teaching of New Testament lessons. And the said congregation suggests that a committee of five members be appointed by this Conference to arrange a lesson course in accordance with the foregoing request. Said course to begin not later than January, 1910.

Answer: Referred to General Mission Board, and we authorize them to bring out such a course of Sunday-school lessons as will best meet our needs.

9. The Fairfax church, Second District of Virginia, petitions Annual Meeting, through district meeting, to protest to the Congress and President of the United States against the ever-increasing expenditures for the navy and the enlarging of the same.

Answer: Request granted, and the officers of Annual Meeting of 1909 are empowered to draft such memorial in behalf of the church.

## REPORTS.

### A Summarized Report of the General Mission Board.

To God be the glory forever and ever, Amen. The year ending March 31, 1909, finds twenty-eight missionaries in India, five in China, one in France, besides our dear Danish and Swedish Brethren in these two fields. The China field has been opened, the missionaries sailing for the Shansi province about Sept. 1. It is a very promising field. One hundred and one accessions by baptism, in all fields, have been reported. Fourteen State Districts have been helped to the amount of \$4,400.00. The Brooklyn church-house and parsonage have been completed. The total membership in the foreign field is some over 1,100.

Tracts distributed, .....	1,260,961 pages
Total receipts for the year, .....	\$ 87,049.79
The endowment has reached, .....	520,014.11

Of every dollar donated 3.5 cents was used for expenses of



Board meetings, office salaries, postage, stationery, etc., while 96.5 cents went to do mission work, as directed by the Board. The members of the Board received no compensation for time spent in the work.

The expenditures for the year have been as follows:

Through World-wide fund, .....	\$ 45,948 33
Through India fund, .....	20,446 46
Through church extension, .....	700 00
Through China fund, .....	2,646 53
Through missionary and ministerial relief fund, .....	469 34
Through Gish Publishing Fund, .....	2,789 13
Total, .....	\$ 72,999 79
Less duplicate from World-wide, .....	9,225 45

Actual expenditures, .....	\$ 63,774 34
The endowment has increased by cash donations, .....	15,378 77
Total assets of the Board, .....	619,741 18
An increase over the preceding year of, .....	15,993 43

The Publishing House has been constantly busy from a manufacturing standpoint, making a higher and better grade of work than the year preceding. The periodicals have, for the most part, increased in circulation.

This summarized report is taken from the complete report appearing in the June Visitor. Please send for the complete report and read full and interesting details of every phase of the work. It can be had for the asking. Address the General Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren, at Elgin, Illinois.

General Mission Board: D. L. Miller, H. C. Early, L. W. Teeter, Chas. D. Bonsack, J. J. Yoder.

#### Report of Annual Meeting Treasurer for Year Ending March 31, 1909, L. A. Plate, Treasurer, Elgin, Ill.

##### Receipts.

1908.

June 14, By loan from General Mission Board, .....	\$152 25
June 14, C. R. Oellig, Southern Pennsylvania, .....	24 25
June 15, S. S. Blocher, N. Dak., N. Minn., W. Can., .....	13 62
June 19, Peter B. Messner, Michigan, .....	8 55
June 20, J. M. Brenneman, Northwestern Ohio, .....	17 00
June 20, J. M. Moore, Texas and Southwestern La., .....	2 00
June 29, J. B. Deeter, Southern Ohio, .....	48 00
June 30, D. F. Kingery, Southern Iowa, .....	6 25
June 30, M. P. Hollar, Northern Missouri, .....	6 53
June 30, C. H. Erb, Middle Iowa, .....	10 75
July 7, John F. Shoemaker, Southern Indiana, .....	26 61
July 8, S. M. Bowman, Second Dis. of Virginia, .....	44 13



July 8, George S. Arnold, First Dis. W. Va., .....	\$ 15 34
July 10, J. P. Douk, N. Iowa, S. Dak., S. Minn., .....	11 36
July 25, H. L. Holsopple, Middle Missouri, .....	9 60
Aug. 1, Geo. A. Branscom, North Carolina, .....	6 00
Aug. 1, E. B. Brubaker, Eastern Pennsylvania, .....	65 00
Aug. 6, Geo. S. Myers, Middle Pa., .....	38 98
Aug. 8, Frank Sargent, Northeastern Kans., .....	12 62
Aug. 14, J. H. Garst, First Dis. of Va., .....	37 00
Aug. 27, Perry Broadwater, Western Maryland, .....	7 50
Sept. 5, J. L. Cunningham, Middle Ind., .....	36 00
Sept. 7, J. L. Thomas, Middle Maryland, .....	7 26
Sept. 10, L. B. Watson, Southern Illinois, .....	18 27
Sept. 25, T. N. Beckner, Northern California, .....	4 00
Sept. 25, Wm. P. Bosserman, Okla. and Texas, .....	8 75
Oct. 2, Wm. Howe, for Johnstown Church, Pa., .....	4 25
Nov. 27, J. L. Thomas, Middle Maryland, .....	23 83
Dec. 14, C. M. Wenger, Northern Indiana, .....	70 00
Dec. 24, J. S. Dell, Nebraska, .....	10 00
1909.	
Jan. 14, S. S. Blocher, N. Dak., W. Can., and E. Mont., .....	13 53
Jan. 16, John E. Senseny, E. Maryland, .....	15 88
Jan. 16, S. P. Crumpacker, Southeastern, Kans., .....	7 76
Feb. 2, T. F. Beckwith, Oregon, Wash., and Idaho, .....	25 79
Feb. 2, Israel Hoover, Northeastern Ohio, .....	26 65
March 20, J. H. Fike, Northern Illinois, .....	44 00
March 20, Mrs. M. A. Cooley, Sidney, Nebr., .....	03
March 22, J. J. Yoder, Southwestern Kansas, .....	28 18
March 25, M. P. Hollar, Northern Missouri, .....	6 23
March 26, D. F. Kingery, Southern Iowa, .....	6 25
\$919 90	

## Expenditures.

1908.

June 18, Stamps for letters, notices and return envelopes; also postals, .....	\$ 2 00
June 18, P. R. Keltner, West Dayton Committee, .....	22 60
June 18, I. W. Taylor, West Dayton Committee, .....	18 22
June 18, D. A. Stayer, Visiting Juniata College, Pa., .....	5 40
June 18, S. J. Swigart, Visiting Juniata College, Pa., .....	5 40
June 18, S. N. McCann, Expense on Bicentennial Program, ....	21 23
June 18, C. C. Price, Visiting Mt. Morris College, .....	3 00
June 18, S. I. Newcomer, Visiting Mt. Morris College, .....	5 70
June 18, C. M. Suter, Visiting Mt. Morris College, .....	6 80
June 18, W. R. Deeter, Visiting North Manchester College, ....	7 00
June 18, J. H. Wright, Visiting North Manchester College, ...	6 00
June 18, G. L. Studebaker, Visiting North Manchester College, ..	5 00
June 18, A. C. Daggett, Visiting McPherson College, .....	18 90
June 18, M. Keller, Visiting McPherson College, .....	15 00
June 18, G. Manon, Visiting McPherson College, .....	12 00
June 25, H. G. Miller, Visiting Bridgewater College, .....	3 00
June 25, Peter Garber, Visiting Bridgewater College, .....	4 50
June 25, H. C. Early, Visiting Bridgewater College, .....	4 50
June 25, D. L. Miller, Expense on Bicentennial Program, ....	38 50



June 25, David F. Hoover, West Dayton Committee, .....	\$ 16 65
July 16, To Galen B. Royer for balance due on note given by R. E. Arnold, .....	97 86
July 16, Stamps for letters, .....	75
Aug. 7, G. A. Snider, West Dayton Committee, .....	6 50
Aug. 7, W. R. Deeter, West Dayton Committee, .....	11 98
Aug. 12, Rubber Stamp, .....	1 20
Aug. 13, I. W. Taylor, West Dayton Committee, .....	30 41
Aug. 22, W. R. Deeter, West Dayton Committee, .....	11 76
Oct. 9, S. M. Smith, Ft. Wayne Committee, .....	17 80
Nov. 17, P. S. Miller, Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey Committee, .....	56 33
Nov. 17, D. Hays, Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey Com- mittee, .....	52 64
Nov. 17, D. H. Zigler, Eastern Pa. and New Jersey Committee, .....	48 78
Dec. 5, J. Calvin Bright, Educational Board, .....	10 90
Dec. 11, Edward Frantz, Educational Board, .....	43 50
Dec. 11, L. T. Holsinger, Educational Board, .....	8 25
Dec. 11, H. C. Early, Educational Board, .....	20 70
Dec. 17, I. W. Taylor, West Dayton Committee, .....	30 20
Dec. 17, W. R. Deeter, West Dayton Committee, .....	11 78
Dec. 25, A. C. Wieand, Educational Board, .....	10 25
1909.	
Jan. 18, G. A. Snider, West Dayton Committee, .....	5 20
Feb. 20, John Calvin Bright, Educational Board, .....	47 50
Feb. 20, W. B. Yount, Educational Board, .....	40 15
March 31, Edward Frantz, Educational Board, .....	99 81
March 31, Stamps and Postal Cards, .....	1 50
	<hr/>
	\$887 15
Amount of Cash on Hand, .....	32 75
	<hr/>
	\$919 90

NOTE.—It will be observed that this report closes with March 31, 1909, and that there is still \$152.25 due the General Board for money borrowed. It is hoped that there may be sufficient funds on hand, ere long, to meet this claim.

#### Report of Auditing Committee.

Examined and approved by Committee April 16, 1909.

R. E. Burger, L. R. Peifer, A. L. Clair, Committee.

#### Report of Temperance Committee.

Your committee has written to forty State Districts to learn their attitude on the different phases of the temperance question, and are gratified to find that, in some localities, measures have been taken against the saloon.

Of the forty Districts only twenty-three responded to the com-



mittee's interrogations. Out of the number making a reply, only two have temperance organizations.

Because of the unorganized condition of the State Districts, we have been unable to systematize our work, and unite our forces as we desired, which is necessary to ultimate success.

Why should prohibition districts organize? A number of the duties of the committee, passed by Conference of last year, cannot be carried out unless the Districts perfect these organizations. We, therefore, urge upon the delegates of this body the importance of taking up the matter at once in their several Districts and report their action to the secretary of our committee.

We have written to a number of Brethren, asking that they write tracts, for distribution, upon some phase of the issue. The responses have been very few, indeed.

This we consider a very fruitful field and hope that the brethren and sisters will avail themselves of the opportunity which the press affords, to create sentiment against this great evil.

Any person, desiring temperance literature for programs, lectures, or for distribution, should address J. A. Dove, Cloverdale, Va., who is in charge of the Bureau of Information. We also solicit, and will be glad for any valuable temperance literature that might fall into the hands of anyone.

Signed: J. W. Lear, Chairman, Cerro Gordo, Ill.; P. J. Blough, Treasurer, Hooversville, Pa.; J. A. Dove, Secretary, Cloverdale, Va.

#### **Plan of Temperance Committee.**

We the temperance committee, in compliance with Art. 3, of Annual Meeting Minutes of 1908, submit the following. We hope that sufficient funds can be raised by free-will offerings through the following plan:

1. That special Sunday-school collections be taken on Temperance lesson Sundays.
2. That temperance sermons be preached, annually, in each local church, in the various congregations, followed by an offering.
3. That at local and District temperance meetings, collections be taken, all to be appropriated to said fund.

J. W. Lear, J. A. Dove, P. J. Blough.

#### **Committees Appointed.**

Committee on Credentials.—J. W. Harshbarger, H. G. Miller, S. H. Hertzler.

Committee on Resolutions.—A. E. Nead, Manly Deeter, J. H. Neher.



Committee on Letters of Greeting.—C. D. Bonsack and D. J. Lichty.

Sunday-school Advisory Committee.—James M. Mohler, 1912; D. H. Zigler, 1911; Levi Minnich, 1910.

Tract Examining Committee.—A. G. Crosswhite, 1914; D. Hays, 1913; I. J. Rosenberger, 1912; A. C. Wieand, 1911; John E. Mohler, 1910.

Treasurer of Annual Meeting.—L. A. Plate, 1910.

General Mission Board.—L. W. Teeter, 1912; D. L. Miller, 1911; J. J. Yoder, 1911; C. D. Bonsack, 1910; H. C. Early, 1910.

Gospel Messenger Advisory Committee.—G. W. Lentz, 1912; P. R. Keltner, 1911; G. S. Arnold, 1910.

Auditing Committee.—R. E. Burger, 1912; Aaron L. Clair, 1911; L. R. Peifer, 1910.

Trustees of Brethren Hospital.—D. M. Garver, 1914; G. B. Royer, 1913; Manly Deeter, 1912; C. W. Lahman, 1911; David Rowland, 1910.

General Secretary of Committee of Arrangements for Annual Meeting.—J. L. Cunningham, 1911.

Educational Board.—A. C. Wieand, 1913; A. G. Crosswhite, 1913; J. C. Bright, 1912; W. B. Yount, 1912; Edward Frantz, 1911; L. T. Holsinger, 1911; H. C. Early, 1910.

Temperance Committee.—P. J. Blough, 1912; J. W. Lear, 1911; J. A. Dove, 1910.

Annual Meeting Railway Committee.—D. L. Miller, Mt. Morris, Ill., Foreman; J. S. Gable, Lincoln, Nebr., Western Association; G. A. Snider, 375 Pine St., Lima, Ohio, Central Association; E. W. Stoner, Union Bridge, Md., Eastern Association; P. S. Miller, Roanoke, Va., Southeastern Association; M. M. Eshelman, 3207 Manitou Ave., Los Angeles, Cal., Southwestern Association; D. B. Eby, Sunnyside, Wash., Northwestern Association.

#### Committees to Churches.

Eastern Pennsylvania.—P. S. Miller, J. M. Kagey, D. H. Zigler, C. D. Hylton, L. T. Holsinger.

Middle Pennsylvania.—P. R. Keltner, David Hollinger, J. E. Ellenberger.

Western Maryland.—Jasper Barnthouse, D. C. Flory, E. K. Hostetler.

Fort Wayne.—D. F. Hoover, S. M. Smith, J. C. Bright.

Baltimore City, Maryland.—I. W. Taylor, D. C. Flory, E. S. Miller.



**LETTERS OF GREETING.****From Omaja, Cuba.**

To the Annual Conference of 1909, Greeting:

We, the members at Omaja, Cuba, have a deep interest in your deliberations and decisions. We pray that the Holy Spirit will be your guide all the time. We thank those who have contributed toward our new house of worship, which we expect to have completed and dedicated within a short time. We were greatly disappointed that the worker, selected for this field, could not come. Our hope is that some one, or more, may be approved and sent to us speedily, for the need is great. Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he send laborers into this field. During the past year we have lost one minister, one deacon and some members by removal, and one member by death. But the outlook is good, and we long for the time when there will be numerous churches of the Brethren on this island. We had hoped to represent by delegate, but are unable to do so this year. Thankful for the blessings bestowed upon us and having confidence in the future, we ask an interest in your prayers that we may press forward faithfully.

In behalf of the church,

Grant Mahan, Clerk.

**Reply to Cuba.**

Beloved in the Lord, Greeting:

The Annual Conference, assembled in Harrisonburg, Va., has your letter of greeting. We are glad for your interest and prayers for Divine guidance in our deliberations and decisions. We regret that we cannot send workers to assist you at this time, but assure you that efforts are being made to fill this need.

We extend to you the love of Christian fellowship and greetings, commending you to the goodness and guidance of him who careth for you, that you may be blessed and ever be a blessing in his service.

Chas. D. Bonsack, D. J. Lichty.

**From China.**

To the Annual Meeting of the Church of the Brethren of 1909,  
Greeting:

We, the members of the China Mission, desire to thank the beloved church for her interest and support in our new mission in China. We earnestly pray that you will continue to plead our cause before the throne of our gracious Father, that we may do our



part in bringing light and salvation to this great Empire, which is now struggling for light.

We hope soon to select our territory and station and expect to move sometime during this year. Pray that we may be led to the right place, and that the Holy Spirit may be preparing the hearts of the people to receive the gospel message.

During this time we are getting a working knowledge of the language that we may begin soon to tell the Wonderful Story.

We are only a drop in the ocean of this great need, therefore we pray that you will soon send us more workers. Especially do we beg for a physician because of the opium curse which is destroying this nation.

Your fellow-workers for the spread of the Gospel,

Emma Horning, G. W. Hilton, Blanche Hilton, F. H. Crumpacker, Anna N. Crumpacker.

#### Reply to China.

Dearly Beloved in the Lord, Greeting:

The Annual Conference, assembled at Harrisonburg, Va., received your good letter of greeting. We thank God for your zeal and consecration to the work to which you have given your lives. The Conference returns to you the warmest Christian greetings, and assures you that the church in America is ever mindful of your need and hope, and it shall continue to pray that the Holy Spirit may help you in your preparation, and guide you in the choice of the field.

The church recognizes the vastness of your field, and prays for wisdom and means to assist you from time to time. Meanwhile you will find the "Lord a very present help." May his grace and power sustain you!

Chas. D. Bonsack, D. J. Lichty.

#### From the First District of India.

To the Brethren and Sisters Assembled in Annual Meeting, Greeting:

We, the members of the Brethren church in India, in district meeting assembled at Bulsar, March 9, 1909, desire to join you in praising God for all that has been done during the past year. Through the mercy and blessings of our Heavenly Father the Word has been preached among the heathen, more than in previous years, and a number have turned to the Lord. Most of our lives have been spared, but a few have been translated to heavenly glory.

Because of your gifts and your prayers, and help, and encour-



agement in various ways, the work in India has been established and carried on. The church in India had decided that each one should deny himself, and the money gathered by this plan has been far beyond our hopes. With this money we hope to make Christ known among the heathen.

We ask you to join us in prayer that this work may be fruitful and increase. We pray not only that the church in India may grow in Spirit, but that the church in America and in the whole world may, according to the prayer of the Lord, become one, and grow in Spirit.

Alice K. Ebey, Eliza B. Miller.

#### Reply to the District of India.

Beloved in the Lord, Greeting:

The Annual Conference, assembled at Harrisonburg, Va., has received your kind letter of greeting. We rejoice with you in the comfort of the fellowship of Christ and praise for the Father's goodness, that health and opportunity have been given to continue your labor for the Master. We especially commend and rejoice with you in the liberal and enthusiastic sacrifice you are making, in pushing your home mission work.

We extend to you our Christian love and means, as God may enable us, for the furtherance of the work. We pray that harmony and loyalty to the Truth may be sustained in all your churches, and that together we may be used of the Lord to hasten the gathering of the church out of all nations.

Chas. D. Bonsack, D. J. Lichty.

#### From Denmark.

To the Annual Meeting of the Church of the Brethren in America, of 1909, Greeting:

We, in district meeting assembled at Hordum, Denmark, Dec. 6, 1908, desire hereby to express gratitude for the interest that the Brotherhood in America has shown us during the past years, and for the help which they have given us to the present time. We have no query to present this year, but desire hereby to send you our greetings and an expression of our love and appreciation. We are still pressing forward, trying to do what we can and ask an interest in your prayers, that souls may be saved and that the work may move forward.

Our prayer is that the grace of the Lord, our Savior, may be with you in your meeting, and that the Conference will result in much good to those present, as well as for the whole Brotherhood.



In behalf of the churches of the Brethren in Denmark.

Signed by Elders K. Johansen, C. L. Eskildsen, C. Hansen, Secretary.

#### Reply to Denmark.

Beloved in the Lord, Greeting:

The Annual Conference, assembled at Harrisonburg, Va., has received your letter of greeting and appreciation of the kindness of the church in America. We praise the Lord for your continued faithfulness to Christ and the church.

The Conference sends greetings to you, and our prayer is that the Lord may effectually use everyone of you to bring your countrymen to the fullest knowledge of the Truth of the Gospel. May your faith be strengthened more and more by every struggle, till the coming of the Lord!

Chas. D. Bonsack, D. J. Lichty.

#### RESOLUTIONS.

Through the Divine providence of our kind Heavenly Father, we have been permitted to meet in another Annual Conference, to deliberate upon the vital questions pertaining to the Church of the Brethren, relative to Christianizing the world. Therefore, be it resolved that we hereby formally express our gratitude:

1. To Almighty God, the Father, who has protected us, Jesus Christ the Savior, who has redeemed us, and the Holy Spirit, who has led and guided us by the Word of Truth.

2. To the dear brethren, sisters and friends of the Second District of Virginia, with all their various committees, for the courtesy, care and kindness, and untiring labors, to entertain us during our sojourn with them.

3. To the churches of the city, who have so cordially invited our Brethren to occupy their pulpits.

4. For the frank, open-hearted address of welcome by Gen. John E. Roller, in behalf of the citizens of Harrisonburg and community.

5. To the city council and all the good citizens they represent, for providing the grounds and furnishing them with light and water for our convenience.

6. To the Railroad Associations, and the several roads under their supervision, for the reduced rates and excellent service which we have enjoyed.

7. To the postal department for their kindness in placing an office on the grounds for our accommodation.



8. To the Police Force for the protection they have given us.  
A. E. Nead, Manly Deeter, J. H. Neher, Committee.

#### STANDING COMMITTEE FOR 1909.

1. Arkansas, First District and S. E. Missouri, .....By letter
2. California, Northern, .....Harvey Eikenberry
3. California, Southern and Arizona, .....J. A. Miller
4. Denmark, .....
5. France, .....
6. Illinois, Northern and Wisconsin, .....Wm. Eisenbise
7. Illinois, Southern, .....D. T. Wagoner
8. India, First District, .....D. J. Lichty
9. Indiana, Middle, .....A. G. Crosswhite, S. S. Ulery
10. Indiana, Northern, .....J. W. Kitson, I. L. Berkey
11. Indiana, Southern, .....J. W. Rarick
12. Iowa, Middle, .....John Zuck
13. Iowa, Northern, S. Minn. and S. Dak., .....Silas Gilbert
14. Iowa, Southern, .....H. C. N. Coffman
15. Kansas, Northeastern, .....I. L. Hoover
16. Kansas, Northwestern and N. Colorado, .....D. A. Crist
17. Kansas, Southeastern, .....Chas. A. Miller
18. Kansas, S. W., S. Colo., and N. W. Okla., .....M. Keller
19. Maryland, Eastern, .....John H. Utz
20. Maryland, Middle, .....John Rowland
21. Maryland, Western, .....W. T. Sines
22. Michigan, .....J. M. Smith
23. Missouri, Middle, .....G. W. Lentz
24. Missouri, Northern, .....J. S. Kline
25. Missouri, S. and N. W. Arkansas, .....Noah Oren
26. Nebraska, .....Levi Snell
27. North and S. Carolina and Georgia, .....Geo. A. Branscom
28. N. Dakota, N. Minn. and W. Canada, .....D. F. Landis
29. Ohio, Northeastern, .....Noah Longanecker
30. Ohio, Northwestern, .....J. W. Keiser
31. Ohio, Southern, .....D. M. Garver, D. S. Filbrun
32. Okla., Panhandle Tex., and N. Mex., .....Wm. P. Bosserman
33. Oregon, Washington and Idaho, .....J. S. Secrist
34. Pennsylvania, Eastern, .....John Herr, F. P. Cassel
35. Pennsylvania, Middle, .....H. B. Brumbaugh
36. Pennsylvania, S., .....Henry Beelman, Albert Hollinger
37. Pennsylvania, Western, .....Jasper Barnthouse, J. J. Shaffer
38. Sweden, .....
39. Tennessee, .....P. M. Correll



- 40. Texas and Louisiana, .....H. M. Peters
  - 41. Virginia, First, .....D. N. Eller, C. D. Hylton
  - 42. Virginia, Second, .....D. Hays, D. H. Zigler
  - 43. West Virginia, First, .....Emra T. Fike
  - 44. West Virginia, Second, .....Z. Annon
- D. M. Garver, Moderator; G. W. Lentz, Reading Clerk; A. G. Crosswhite, Writing Clerk.



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